



**OFFICE OF THE STATE'S ATTORNEY
COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS**

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February 5, 2015

Commissioner Larry Suffredin
Legislation and Intergovernmental Relations Committee, Chairman
118 N. Clark Street, Room 567
Chicago, IL 60602

Dear Chairman Suffredin:

As you may know, the Cook County State's Attorney's Office has been actively working with state legislators on potential changes to the Illinois Automatic Transfer statute and is considering all options, including providing avenues for judicial discretion in transfer cases.

It is my position that any reform or change to the statute must adequately balance the serious nature of the offenses in question, the minor's history, the rehabilitative benefits of our juvenile justice system, and our ultimate responsibility of providing justice for victims of violent crime and keeping our communities safe.

Proposed House Bill 172, which allows for a blanket elimination of the automatic transfer of juveniles to the adult court system for the serious crimes of murder, aggravated criminal sexual assault, armed robbery with a firearm, aggravated battery with a firearm, aggravated vehicular hijacking, and unlawful use of a weapon on school grounds, does not adequately balance these factors. If enacted, House Bill 172 would lead to the inconsistent and inequitable application of our criminal justice system to some of the most heinous crimes.

Based on recent discussions with state legislators, it is my belief that a proposal which better balances the aforementioned factors will emerge from negotiations in Springfield, and it is my intent to continue engaging in those discussions.

Should you need further information regarding this matter, please do not hesitate to contact my Chief of Staff, Garvin G. Ambrose, at 312-603-1881.

Sincerely,

Anita Alvarez
State's Attorney