



# Board of Commissioners of Cook County

118 North Clark Street  
Chicago, IL

## Legislation Text

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**File #:** 19-5830, **Version:** 1

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### **PROPOSED RESOLUTION**

#### **SUPPORTING A REVIEW OF COOK COUNTY POLICIES AND PRACTICES IN LIGHT OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD AND THE GLOBAL STUDY ON CHILDREN DEPRIVED OF LIBERTY**

**WHEREAS**, research shows that children prosecuted in the adult criminal justice system are more likely to reoffend than those held in the juvenile justice system; and

**WHEREAS**, until the beginning of the 20th century, courts tried children under the age of 18 in adult settings; and

**WHEREAS**, Cook County is home to the world's first juvenile justice system, which arose from the belief that children should be removed from adult prison and receive a second chance; and

**WHEREAS**, Cook County consistently leads on protecting children and promoting their rights; and

**WHEREAS**, in the 1980s, the United States participated in a working group along with the nearly eighty other nations that drafted the Convention on the Rights of the Child; and

**WHEREAS**, on November 20, 1989, the United Nations General Assembly unanimously adopted the Convention on the Rights of the Child, with the specific purpose of promoting and protecting the well-being of all children, regardless of national boundaries; and

**WHEREAS**, the Convention on the Rights of the Child has been ratified by all U.N. nations, except the United States, making it the most widely ratified human rights document in history; and

**WHEREAS**, the United States formally signed the Convention on the Rights of the Child in 1995, signifying its intent to ratify the Convention; and

**WHEREAS**, November 20, 2019, marks the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child; and

**WHEREAS**, on October 8, 2019, the United Nations will receive the first international report on the Global Study on Children Deprived of Liberty along with updated recommendations on when and under what conditions children should be detained and deprived of liberty; and

**WHEREAS**, Cook County is committed to continuing its global leadership in promoting justice for children and adolescents, ensuring that all its children receive every internationally recognized human right; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that we call upon all government agencies in Cook County, in particular, those concerned with juvenile justice, to review their policies and practices in light of the recommendations of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Global Study on Children Deprived of Liberty.