



NEWS RELEASE

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Connecticut Voices for Children Attends Juvenile Justice Bill Signing

Connecticut Voices for Children, a statewide research-based think tank determined to improve the general welfare of Connecticut's children and families through robust data-collection and strategic public investment advocacy, attended Governor Dannel Malloy's ceremonial bill signing for [Public Act 15-84](#): An Act Concerning Lengthy Sentences for Crimes Committed by a Child or Youth and the Sentencing of a Child or Youth Convicted of Certain Felony Offenses.

Director of Development and Communications Meghan Forgione represented Connecticut Voices for Children at this event to display our continued support for the legislation, previously known as Senate Bill 796 that Connecticut Voices for Children helped pass into law. The measure establishes an independent review process for incarcerated juveniles who serve long adult prison sentences after inmates serve a substantial portion of their sentence. With this law, Connecticut complies with the U.S. Supreme Court decision in [Miller v. Alabama](#) that prohibits prosecutors from charging juveniles with offenses that carry mandatory life-without-parole sentences, and identifies mitigating youth circumstances judges must consider when sentencing juveniles in adult courts.

Public Act 15-84 offers those issued lengthy sentences after conviction of juvenile crimes parole opportunities after they complete sixty percent of their sentences or twelve years (whichever is greater), up to a maximum of thirty years for those with sentences greater than fifty years. This measure does not guarantee release, as the Parole Board must determine that an applicant is truly rehabilitated and does not pose a public safety threat.

"The change in law simply gives young people the opportunity to present how they have grown and come to take responsibility for their actions," said Edie Joseph, former Policy fellow at Connecticut Voices for Children in her [testimony](#) on Senate Bill 796.

Photos of Meghan Forgione at the Public Act 15-84 bill signing ceremony can be found [here](#).

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