

May 18, 2021

House Judiciary Committee  
Colorado General Assembly  
200 E Colfax Avenue  
Denver, CO 80203

**Re: Support for H.B. 1315 (Herod) – Ending Juvenile Fees in Colorado**

Dear Representatives Weissman, Tipper, Bacon, Benavidez, Bockenfeld, Carver, Daugherty, Luck, Lynch, Roberts, and Woodrow:

We write as organizations across the political spectrum to urge you to **vote YES on House Bill 1315 (Herod)** to end the assessment and collection of juvenile fees and costs in Colorado.

Juvenile fees and costs – monetary sanctions imposed on youth and families to generate government revenue – are a regressive tax on vulnerable Coloradans. These fees include charges for public defender applications, genetic testing, restorative justice programs, miscellaneous court costs, late payment fees, and more, and come with harsh penalties and other negative consequences for nonpayment.

Studies show that juvenile fees create additional barriers for youth and families, often trapping them in cycles of debt and court involvement. Further, juvenile fees are linked to higher recidivism rates and lower levels of positive social spending, undermining community safety and youth rehabilitation.

Research consistently shows that jurisdictions tend to generate little to no net revenue from juvenile fees, which they collect at low rates with high costs. Still, relying on system-involved youth and families to generate potential government revenue creates a perverse incentive to entangle youth in the system. By ending juvenile fees that only push youth deeper into the system, Colorado could see long-term fiscal savings.

Ending juvenile fees is a common-sense juvenile justice reform with bipartisan support in Colorado and nationally. **We respectfully urge you to vote YES on H.B. 1315.**

Sincerely,

Tristan Gorman, Legislative Policy  
Coordinator  
**Colorado Criminal Defense Bar**

Jason Pye, Director, Rule of Law  
Initiatives  
**Due Process Institute**

William R. Maurer, Senior Attorney  
**Institute for Justice**

Lauren Krisai, Senior Policy Analyst  
**Justice Action Network**

Jessica Feierman, Senior Managing  
Director  
**Juvenile Law Center**

Lt. Diane Goldstein (Ret.), Executive  
Director  
**Law Enforcement Action Partnership**

Ronal Serpas, Executive Director  
**Law Enforcement Leaders to Reduce Crime  
and Incarceration**

Michael Harris, Senior Director for Juvenile  
Justice and Legal Advocacy  
**National Center for Youth Law**

Mary Ann Scali, Executive Director  
**National Juvenile Defender Center**

Marc Hyden, Director,  
State Government Affairs  
**R Street Institute**

Brett Tolman, Executive Director  
**Right on Crime**

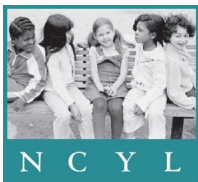
John Koufos, Executive Director  
**Safe Streets & Second Chances**



**DUE PROCESS**  
INSTITUTE



**Juvenile  
Law Center**



NATIONAL JUVENILE DEFENDER CENTER

