



State of California

LITTLE HOOVER COMMISSION

Stuart Drown
Executive Director

June 30, 2010

The Honorable Jenny Oropeza
Member, California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 5114
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SUPPORT FOR SENATE BILL 1067

Dear Senator Oropeza:

The Little Hoover Commission supports SB 1067, the measure you have authored to require the Division of Juvenile Justice to track recidivism rates of youthful offenders under the jurisdiction of the department and report that information on the department's Web site.

The Commission supports this measure based on findings in its July 2008 report, *Juvenile Justice Reform: Realigning Responsibilities*. During its study, the Commission found that the state is spending approximately \$252,000 per youth offender each year. Yet, the Commission also found that the state lacked the leadership structure to ensure the funding is spent wisely to expand and enhance programs that have proven effective in improving public safety and helping troubled youth offenders turn their lives around.

Other states, such as Washington, rely on data and analysis to develop evidence-based solutions to juvenile corrections and rehabilitation. By understanding what they are buying with the public's investment, policy-makers in these states are making informed decisions to fund programs that have proven results, such as reducing recidivism rates or lowering crime rates. Californians too should know what they are buying with the state's substantial outlays for juvenile justice operations and whether other strategies could better deliver public safety and youth rehabilitation.

In its 2008 report, the Commission recommended streamlining and consolidating the state's juvenile justice operations into an Office of Juvenile Justice and eliminating its juvenile justice operations by 2011. The Commission views the intention of SB 1067 to infuse more accountability into the state's juvenile justice system as a step in the right direction, while leaving room for further systemic reforms.

As the bill moves through the committee process, I will be writing letters on behalf of the Commission to legislators urging aye votes. If you feel my presence and testimony at a hearing would be helpful, please let me know, and I will make every attempt to be available.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stuart Drown".

Stuart Drown
Executive Director

c: Commissioners