



State of North Carolina

ROY COOPER
GOVERNOR

JUVENILE JUSTICE WEEK

2017

BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, North Carolina's juvenile justice system provides public safety intervention for all children and youth who are alleged, or found to have committed, an undisciplined or criminal offense in the state of North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, the Juvenile Justice Section of the Division of Adult Correction and Juvenile Justice, in the Department of Public Safety, is committed to reduce and prevent juvenile delinquency by intervening, educating, and treating youth, strengthening families, and increasing public safety; and

WHEREAS, the Comprehensive Strategy of the Juvenile Justice Section allows for graduated responses based on a youth's risk, behavior, or crime; history of offense; and family or support system within the community; and

WHEREAS, this approach relies on strong partnerships in local jurisdictions to serve children in their communities rather than institutions; interventions happen as soon as delinquent behavior occurs, helping to identify any small groups of serious, violent juvenile offenders in local areas; and

WHEREAS, the staff and community partners of the Juvenile Justice Section have contributed to improving our state: North Carolina's juvenile crime rate decreased from 41.87 in 1998 to 19.16 in 2016; juvenile detention center admissions are down by 67 percent since 2006; and youth development center commitments have reduced by 58 percent in the past 10 years; and

WHEREAS, after decades of research and advocacy by a strong bipartisan coalition of support for Raise the Age, North Carolina raised the age of juvenile jurisdiction for nonviolent crimes to 18 during the 2017 session of the General Assembly, to take effect in December 2019; and

WHEREAS, the State of North Carolina recognizes Juvenile Justice Week to encourage public understanding of our juvenile justice system, and to commend the Juvenile Justice Section of the North Carolina Department of Public Safety, law enforcement partners, advocacy organizations, and all who work with juvenile offenders and their families, crime victims, and communities;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ROY COOPER, Governor of the State of North Carolina, do hereby proclaim October 15 – 21, 2017, as "**JUVENILE JUSTICE WEEK**" in North Carolina, and commend its observance to all citizens.



Roy Cooper
Governor

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Great Seal of the State of North Carolina at the Capitol in Raleigh this ninth day of October in the year of our Lord two thousand and seventeen and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-first.