



# State of North Carolina

**ROY COOPER**

**GOVERNOR**

**JUVENILE JUSTICE WEEK**

**2018**

**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, within 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 North Carolina's juvenile justice system allows for graduated responses based on a youth's seriousness of risk, behavior, or crime; history of offending; and his or her family or support systems within the local community; and

**WHEREAS**, this approach requires strong, effective partnerships in local jurisdictions to serve children and adolescents in their communities rather than in 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 dedicated 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 19.58 in 2017; juvenile detention center admissions are down by 67 percent since 2006; and youth development center commitments have reduced by 57 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**, Juvenile Justice Section staff and community stakeholders are working diligently to prepare for the successful transition of this new population of young people into North Carolina's juvenile justice system; 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 children and adolescents in our juvenile justice system and their families, crime victims, and communities;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, ROY COOPER, Governor of the State of North Carolina, do hereby proclaim October 21 – 27, 2018, 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 seventeenth day of October in the year of our Lord two thousand and eighteen and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-second.