

## **JJCC Meeting December 3, 2020**

### **Public Comments Submitted via E-mail**

- 1) My name is Vivian Wong and I would like to give public comment today on agenda item 5(a). Please contact me at 925-308-6132. Please also distribute my public comment to JJCC members: As an education attorney for systems-involved students with disabilities, I see firsthand the harm young people experience as a result of their interactions with school-based probation. Stationing probation officers at schools results in over-surveillance of young people of color and with disabilities, which often leads them to be punished and detained for normal adolescent and/or disability-related behavior. Now more than ever, they are exposed to unconscionable conditions in detention, risking exposure to COVID-19 and depriving them of a quality education.

JJCC has given school-based probation upwards of \$11.6 million in recent years, and proposes to fund another \$4.4 million next year. In contrast, JJCC is allocating only \$250,000 to YDD for school-based supports. What does this say about the JJCC's commitment to youth development, the stated purpose of CJJMP funds? The public has no idea how Probation spent its \$4.4 million allocated for school-based supervision this year when schools are not even operating in person. This is a waste of money that could be provided to schools and community-based providers who can still provide positive behavior intervention supports, mental health services, and mentoring in a virtual capacity. Next fall, if we're lucky, schools will be grappling with how to support students transitioning back to in-person instruction – students will need counselors, teachers, and community-based providers to offer care and support; they do not need probation officers to make it even harder for them to transition.

We urge JJCC to divest from school-based probation and invest in community-based organizations who can and already do make a positive difference in young people's lives.

- 2) Hi my name is Alexia Cina and I'm a youth advocate with the Anti Recidivism Coalition. I will be commenting on 5a. I believe school based probation is in no way shape or form beneficial to youth and educational settings. School is a place youth go to so they can learn and it should be a positive space to where they are uplifted and motivated to further educate themselves and better their future. The funding that goes into school based probation takes away from the programs and materials that these students actually need. Funding should go into helping these youth grow as a person and as a student. School based probation funding just makes youth feel uncomfortable as if they are in trouble and being watched. Funding needs to be put into programs that will actually benefit youth, for example, after school programs.
- 3) Hi, good afternoon JJCC committee members, my name is Sophia Cristo and I'm a youth advocate with the Anti-Recidivism Coalition (ARC), and a youth leader within the Los Angeles Youth Uprising (LAYUP) coalition. Thank you for giving me this time to speak. As someone that has been directly traumatized by incarceration for 10 years as a youth and adult here in this county, I want to express my strong opposition to school-based probation. In no way, shape, or form do programs like this help youth in their educational settings. A school is a place of learning, and growth as well as understanding social skills. We must

ensure we are doing right; positive, and real investments---school-based probation is not one of them. With the funding that goes into school-based probation, it takes away from systems, programs, and materials that youth/ students need, as well as making youth feel uncomfortable and anxious due to being monitored all the time. Funding needs to be put into programs that will benefit youth, such as tutoring, after school programs, and other extracurricular activities. I urge this committee to rethink this and stop pouring money into school-based probation. Invest in our communities and our youth. Thank you.