

**JJCC-JJRBG Subcommittee Meeting August 17, 2022**  
**Written Public Comments Submitted**  
**Agenda Item IV A**

1. Sophia Cristo

Item #4

Hi my name is Sophia Cristo and I'm a youth advocate with the Anti Recidivism Coalition. I'm here to speak on item #4. I would like to express my disappointment in the Probation Department and the lack of Youth Justice Reimagined implementation. Programming for youth that consists of watching tv and playing video games doesn't benefit the youth in any way, shape or form but instead it's detrimental to their development. How does this contribute to their growing, healing and rehabilitation? Youth have yet to receive proper care and programs while being incarcerated, especially when staff don't show up and contribute to the lack of safety and security needed to provide the support and services these youth need. Probation insists that they deserve the new Department of Youth Development jobs, yet they proudly shout at the BOS to "lock them up" and claim that parents and youth want more probation staff. Do they even care about the healthy and supportive development of our youth? They go on to say youth need to be held accountable yet these youth fail to receive proper educational services, get pepper sprayed at the drop of a hat, get locked in their room for 24 hours as a punishment, and aren't provided with proper care and services. How much more can youth suffer and forcefully be held accountable while incarcerated, especially when staff aren't held accountable for their lack of care and effort. We need credible messengers in the new Department of Youth Development and these facilities to connect with these youth when they need it most. Youth Justice Reimagined should've been implemented long before now, and these youth should already be at Camp Kilpatrick not Barry J, yet here we are today having this conversation. How much more are our youth going to be harmed, their rights be violated, and needs not met? This can't happen a second longer. I urge this committee to move forward with fully supporting and implementing Youth Justice Reimagined.

Thank you