

2016 -2017 Timeline

- December 29, 2016 Independent Democratic Conference (lead by Senator Jeff Klein) releases report on economic impact of raising the age
 - IDC supports raising the age and makes passing reform a priority for 2017 legislative session
- January 9, 2017 Governor Cuomo's State of the State includes raising the age of criminal responsibility as it has for last 2 years
 - Reimbursement to counties for cost associated with RTA is formula based
- February 6, 2017 State Senate Republicans (lead by Senator Flanagan) hold public hearing (convened by Senator Gallivan) on raise the age
 - 3+ hours of testimony from Judges, Probation, law enforcement, defenders, advocates, parents and others
- February 13, 2017 State Democratic Conference (lead by Senator Stewart Cousins) holds press conference in support of raise the age and recognizes 2012 Montgomery bill
- February 14, 2017, the Assembly Majority (lead by Speaker Heastie) holds press conference on passing criminal justice reform package
 - 12 bills in the package including raise the age
- IDC has plans in coming weeks to release legislation

Advocacy efforts:

Governor, Senate and Assembly need to work together! Passing Raise the Age legislation in this budget is critical for the youth, families and communities throughout New York State. We understand that there are no costs to the localities in the upcoming fiscal year because of the phase-in of the legislation. We urge the Governor and the Legislature to adopt a budget that includes comprehensive (7 points) raise the age legislation and ensures that both the state and the localities will have the resources and adequate funding necessary to effectively raise the age of criminal responsibility.

Seven Policy Points:

1. Raise the overall age of juvenile jurisdiction to 18, which is consistent with other states.
2. Ensure no youth who is 16 or 17 years old is placed in an adult jail or prison.
3. Amend the law to ensure parental notification upon the arrest of a 16 or 17 year old and ensure 16 and 17 year olds are interviewed using practices employed for youth, including parental involvement prior to waiving Miranda rights.
4. Better address the collateral consequences of court involvement and help youth become successful adults by sealing records and expanding YO status to age 21 and to additional non-violent crimes.
5. Increase investments in the front-end diversion services that keep youth in

their communities rather than incarceration. These alternatives to detention, placement and incarceration services are less expensive and more effective at reducing recidivism.

6. Originate as many cases of 16 and 17 year olds in Family court as possible; create Youth Parts in adult court for remaining cases, and apply the Family Court Act to as many as possible, regardless of which courthouse in which the case is heard.
7. Raise the lower age of juvenile delinquency from age 7 to age 12 (except for homicide offenses, which should be raised to 10).

TAKE ACTION:

Call-In for Justice Day on the 16th of each month. Participate using this one-click alert, that provides the numbers for your representatives and a script you can use to call them: bit.ly/rta2017

Send an electronic letter to Governor Cuomo, Assembly Speaker Heastie, Senate Majority Leader Flanagan, IDC Leader Jeff Klein using this link: bit.ly/RTA-act

Join the **RTA Lobby Day** on Tuesday, March 7th! Westchester Children's Association is providing buses from White Plains and New Rochelle to Albany. Register here <http://bit.ly/RTABus>

Post your support on **social media** using #RaiseTheAgeNY. For updates, follow @wca4kids and @RaiseTheAgeNY on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram.

For more information go to either wca4kids.org or raisetheageny.com.