



General Assembly
State of Colorado
Denver

April 15, 2014

Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice

Dear Chair Davis and Commission Members,

The increased abuse of interactive computer and cellular services and social media by youth for purposes of bullying, harassing or making threats against minor victims is an issue that was recently considered by the Colorado State Legislature. Unfortunately, no clear consensus could be reached among the stakeholders regarding HB14-1131.

Therefore, we respectfully request that the Colorado Commission on Juvenile Justice take a comprehensive look at these wrongful behaviors and determine the most effective strategies to address and ultimately prevent cyberbullying. Further, we are requesting that the CCJJ assess the best criminal or juvenile justice responses to these behaviors by Colorado youth, with consideration of factors including the age and the developmental maturity of both victims and perpetrators of cyber bullying.

We respectfully ask the Commission to develop recommendations for a comprehensive response to address cyberbullying, taking into consideration the following parameters:

- The existing criminal statutes that address acts that are committed through the internet, cellular phones or other forms of social media, the sufficiency of those statutes, and any gaps in the law that may need to be addressed;
- Effective prevention and intervention methods that include, but are not limited to, intervention in schools and other educational settings;
- The role of victim-initiated restorative justice in addressing cyberbullying and how restorative justice may be used to aid victims, educate perpetrators, and inform communities to achieve a positive and more productive resolution when these behaviors occur;
- The specific and problematic use of pornography to harass or damage a minor victim;
- Methods and interventions that may assist victims to recover from the damage caused by cyberbullying; and
- Relevant impacts related to criminal convictions or juvenile adjudications; and

- Other analysis and research the commission deems relevant including consideration of best practices in other political subdivisions and evidence-based practices

We further request that the commission provide a written report of its findings and recommendation to the Judiciary committees of the Colorado House of Representatives and the Senate and the Governor's Office of Legal Counsel on or before December 1, 2014. Such findings and recommendations will be very important and helpful for the legislature to make informed decisions about 2015 legislation to address the problem of cyberbullying.

We look forward to working with the Commission on this request.

Sincerely,



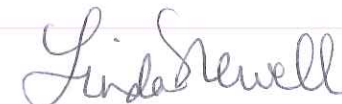
Senate President Morgan Carroll



Speaker Mark Ferrandino



Senator John Kefalas



Senator Linda Newell



Representative Rhonda Fields