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The Honorable Members of the Colorado General Assembly  
Colorado State Capitol  
200 East Colfax Avenue  
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Members of the General Assembly,

Today I signed HB22-1131, Reduce Juvenile Justice Involvement for Young Children. This bill creates a “pre-adolescent services taskforce,” which will examine gaps in services for juveniles who are ten to thirteen years of age if the minimum age of prosecution of juveniles were to be increased from ten years old to thirteen years old.

I deeply appreciate the sponsors’ collaborative work on this bill, which was pared down from policy changes to a taskforce after hearing concerns from stakeholders. This taskforce will help to identify services that are currently provided by the juvenile justice system for this population and how services may be provided outside of the juvenile justice system in the event that the age of prosecution was changed to thirteen.

During the legislative process, stakeholders raised concerns that the taskforce created under this bill will be duplicative of the Colorado Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice (CCJJ). I fully respect the CCJJ and believe that this group is doing important work regarding sentencing reform, as well as identifying other changes that must be made to improve our criminal and juvenile justice systems and have previously and continue to encourage criminal justice reform policies to move through CCJJ.

It is important to me that the purview of the pre-adolescent services taskforce is to review services that are currently and could be provided to the ten to thirteen year old population. My understanding and intent is that this taskforce does not make recommendations regarding *whether* ten to thirteen year olds should be charged, but should instead do the important work of identifying services related to this population. This information will be helpful to the CCJJ as it completes its work.

To that end, I strongly encourage the CCJJ to invite the pre-adolescent services taskforce to present to the CCJJ to inform the Commission’s important work regarding juvenile justice.

Sincerely,

Jared Polis  
Governor  
State of Colorado

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jared Polis".