

# Appropriations Committee

## JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

**Bill No.:** HB-7252

**Title:** AN ACT CONCERNING JUVENILE JUSTICE INITIATIVES.

**Vote Date:** 4/24/2025

**Vote Action:** Joint Favorable

**PH Date:** 4/3/2025

**File No.:**

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### SPONSORS OF BILL:

Appropriations Committee.

### REASONS FOR BILL:

HB-7252 requires the Court Support Services Division of the Judicial Branch to report on community support services for disconnected and justice-involved youth. Reforming Connecticut's juvenile justice system includes expanding community services that prioritize rehabilitation and community-based interventions, as these are evidence-based initiatives that reduce recidivism and help juveniles successfully reintegrate into their communities. This reporting will aid understanding of these initiatives by gathering the appropriate data.

### RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

None expressed.

### NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

#### [Michael Duggan, Executive Director, DOMUS](#)

DOMUS supports HB-7252 because providing justice-involved and disconnected youth with school engagement and workforce development "empower[s] them to pursue their path to self-sufficiency." By building "strong, trusting relationships with young people and their families, [we] remove the obstacles that get in the way of youth finding school and work success, and teach them the skills they need to thrive in those settings." Through decades of research and experience, it is clear what these at-risk youth are facing and/or trying to avoid, "and it's usually grounded in multiple traumas." Our trauma-responsive practices have been extremely successful and continue to advance.

#### [Leilanie Jimenez Huertas, Clinician, CMHA](#)

Ms. Huertas supports HB-7252 as a part of "ensuring the well-being and success of Connecticut's youth and families." This bill prioritizes evidence-based solutions to reducing

recidivism: rehabilitation and community-based interventions. Supporting juveniles with resources such as individualized education plans, mental health services, and substance use treatment as they reintegrate into society will make our communities safer and help ensure equity and justice in our most vulnerable populations.

[Marc Donald, President & CEO, Catalyst CT, Supports with Recommendations](#)

HB-7252 "will provide valuable insights [...] and inform future funding decisions" on programs that make significant differences in the lives of young people, their families, and their communities. Catalyst CT focuses on diversion from the justice system and school-based conflict resolution. Evidence-based restorative practices help juveniles prioritize relationships and disentangle from the root causes of violence, keeping youth engaged in education and fostering resilience.

Mr. Donald strongly recommends "the reporting requirements include programs like youth mediation and credible messenger initiatives that are currently operating without direct state funding."

**NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:**

None expressed.

**Reported by: Rebecca Hyland**

**Date: May 6, 2025**