



# WE CAN ELIMINATE JUVENILE LFOs

## WASHINGTON IS PAVING THE WAY FOR DEBT FREE YOUTH JUSTICE

The **YEAR Act (2015)** made Washington one of the first states to reduce juvenile legal financial obligations (LFOs), and **HB2050 (2022)** automatically waived detention fee debt.

## OUR DRAFT BILL

DFJY-WA is seeking **full elimination** of youth legal financial obligations and **real compensation** for crime survivors. Our draft 2023 legislation:

- ✓ Eliminates harmful, discriminatory LFOs in juvenile court
- ✓ Replaces youth restitution with a stable, easy-to-access Community Compensation Fund
- ✓ Creates a taskforce to design and implement Compensation Fund to meet stakeholder needs
- ✓ Waives \$40 million in court debt, most of which is more than five years old and "virtually uncollectible"
- ✓ Limits community service hours in line with best practices and other states
- ✓ Reestablishes Washington as a leader on evidence-based youth LFO policy

## OUR COALITION

Stand for Children Washington  
Center for Children & Youth Justice  
Berkeley Law Policy Advocacy  
Clinic  
CHOOSE 180  
Civil Survival  
Columbia Legal Services  
Disability Rights Washington  
Eastern WA All of Us or None  
Freedom Project  
*Impacted youth advocates*  
Justice for Girls Coalition  
King County Department of Public  
Defense

Legal Counsel for Youth and  
Children  
NorthStar Advocates  
SDM Consulting  
TeamChild  
The Mockingbird Society  
The Y Seattle  
Treehouse  
Urban League of Metropolitan  
Seattle  
Washington Defender Association  
YouthCare



### Juvenile restitution does not compensate harmed parties.

Although courts collect little data, the best evidence suggests that less than 10% of restitution is able to be paid by youth and families, a majority of whom are low-income.



### LFOs drive youth deeper into the system,

can add up to thousands of dollars, and are disproportionately burdensome for Black, Latino, and Indigenous families who are most likely to be systems-impacted.



### Juvenile LFOs are costly to collect and have low collection rates.

In 2019, WA courts collected less than 20% of the total assessed fees and fines. Agencies and counties in Oregon, Idaho, and Montana spent more on collections than they brought in.

**Washington is ready to abolish discriminatory, ineffective juvenile LFOs and meaningfully compensate survivors**

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