



February 5, 2015

TO: Rep. Maxine Grad, Chair
Rep. William Jewett, Vice-Chair
House Judiciary Committee

FROM: Auburn Watersong, Associate Director of Public Policy
RE: H.62 -- prohibiting a sentence of life without parole for a person who was under 18 years of age at the time of the commission of the offense

Thank you for the invitation to speak to you about H. 62.

Given that:

1. Recent scientific research shows that juveniles' brains are still developing until the age of 25;
2. The Supreme Court banned the use of mandatory sentences of life without parole sentences for juveniles who committed non-homicide offenses (*Miller v. Alabama*) in 2012;
3. Juveniles hold a capacity for change and the potential for rehabilitation;
4. Violence prevention includes both accountability and the education of our offending youth.

The Network supports this bill as written.

Thank you.