

# Lawyers Committee for Children's Rights

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2927 Devine Street, Suite 120  
Post Office Box 607  
Columbia, South Carolina 29202  
Phone (803) 252-9236  
E-Mail: jayel@mindspring.com

April 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020

Hon. Henry D. McMaster  
Governor of South Carolina  
State House  
1100 Gervais Street  
Columbia SC 29201

***RE: COVID 19 and South Carolina's Juvenile Justice System***


Dear Governor McMaster:

Enclosed please find recommendations for improving our state's response to the plight of youth confined in South Carolina's institutions operated by the juvenile justice system.

While the recommendations are addressed to the Chief Justice, plainly it will require the cooperation of other agencies and law enforcement to help mitigate the known risks presented by COVID 19 in juvenile institutions. Indeed, your director of the South Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice took the lead over two weeks ago to enlist the help of other agencies in the juvenile justice process for aid in limiting the numbers of children confined in its facilities.

You have demonstrated your commitment to meeting the challenges presented by the existence of the virus and its spread through your tireless and commanding leadership. We ask that you bring that same commitment to bear in mitigating the risk the virus poses to children who are all too often out of sight in our justice system.

Sincerely,



John D. 'Jay' Elliott, President,  
Lawyers Committee for Children's Rights

ENCLOSURE

CC: DIRECTOR FREDDIE B. POUGH