

Support Austin Youth

Urge the City Council to Stop the Criminalization of Youth by Ending the Juvenile Curfew Ordinance

The City Council will vote on June 15, 2017!!

Austin's Juvenile Curfew Ordinance (JCO) creates a Class C misdemeanor to punish youth who are not in school or who are out at night between 11:00 pm and 6:00 am. Kids as young as 11 years old can be sent to adult criminal court, without an attorney, face fines of up to \$500, and can end up with a criminal record. Research shows that this type of justice system contact is harmful for youth—it impacts their ability to succeed in school and can lead to additional harmful court and police interactions.

Youth in Austin should not be treated this way. Behavior that is relatively minor, like leaving campus to eat lunch, should be corrected in the school setting. More serious underlying issues, like homelessness, should be addressed with appropriate supports and services. **Pushing a child into the criminal justice system NEVER helps them**, and can actually create additional hardships for youth and families.

Recommended Policy Change:

The JCO is reviewed by the Austin City Council every three years. Based on the research about the harms of criminalizing youth, Texas Appleseed recommends that the Austin City Council vote to **not renew** the JCO. Further, youth, and organizations and individuals who work with youth, should convene to discuss ways to support young Austinites, instead of criminalizing them.

1

CALL YOUR CM

Urge your Council Member to end the JCO & support Austin youth!

2

SHARE THIS INFO ON SOCIAL MEDIA!!

Join other supporters and testify at the **Austin City Council Meeting on June 15th at 4:00!**

3

TESTIFY



Day & Night:

Truancy was decriminalized in TX, but 77% of curfew violations are issued during the day.



Youth of Color:

Black youth are 8% of population, but received **23% of juvenile curfew tickets from AISD.**



Wide Net:

Tickets are issued to homeless youth, working youth, and youth who are home-schooled.