



## Make your voice heard!

Background:

On June 28, 1867, the New Jersey Training School for Boys (“Jamesburg”), New Jersey’s largest youth prison opened.

Currently, the Juvenile Justice Commission operates three youth prisons: (1) the Juvenile Medium Security Facility (JMSF), (2) the New Jersey Training School for Boys (Jamesburg), and (3) the Female Secure Care and Intake Facility (Hayes).

The New Jersey Institute for Social Justice and Youth Justice New Jersey seek to transform New Jersey's youth incarceration system into a community-based system of care. We must make sure that our youth receive the rehabilitation they need, so that they can grow into responsible adults.

On June 28<sup>th</sup> 2017, we launched a campaign outside of Jamesburg declaring that 150 years is enough of a failed attempt to rehabilitate our young people. On that day, we were joined by more than 300 people calling for the closure of Jamesburg and Hayes, and the reinvestment of funds into a community-based system of care that provides the services and support our youth need.

Our youth prisons are a revolving door of recidivism. Of the approximately 500 young people released from commitment in state youth facilities in 2012, 80 percent had a new court filing/arrest; 68 percent had a new adjudication/conviction; and nearly 33 percent were recommitted within three years of release. This system does not promote public safety. Instead, it punishes children who need rehabilitation. The racial disparities are extreme. Even though Black and white kids commit offenses at similar rates, two-thirds of kids in New Jersey’s youth prisons are Black (as of January 1, 2017). By contrast, less than six percent of kids in youth prison in the state, or 13 kids, are white (as of January 1, 2017). New Jersey has the third-highest Black/white youth incarceration disparity rate in the nation. New Jersey currently spends \$60 million to operate three youth prisons and \$8 million on community-based programs.

**Action 1:**

Please call the legislators listed below as they represent the districts that house Jamesburg (Middlesex County) or Hayes (Burlington County), and ask them to support closing Jamesburg and Hayes and reinvesting funds into a community-based system of care.

**Legislators:**

NJ Legislative District 7, (Burlington County): Beverly, Bordentown, Bordentown Township, Burlington, Burlington Township, Cinnaminson, Delanco, Delran, Edgewater Park, Fieldsboro, Florence, Moorestown, Mount Laurel, Palmyra, Riverside, Riverton, Willingboro

Senator Diane Allen  
Phone: (856) 314-8835  
[senallen@njleg.org](mailto:senallen@njleg.org)

Assemblyman Troy Singleton  
856.234.2790  
[asmsingleton@njleg.org](mailto:asmsingleton@njleg.org)

Assemblyman Herb Conaway Jr.  
856.461.3997  
[asmconaway@njleg.org](mailto:asmconaway@njleg.org)

NJ Legislative District 14, (Mercer & Middlesex Counties): Cranbury, East Windsor, Hamilton (Mercer), Hightstown, Jamesburg, Monroe (Middlesex), Plainsboro, Robbinsville, Spotswood

Senator Linda Greenstein  
Phone: (609) 395-9911  
[sengreenstein@njleg.org](mailto:sengreenstein@njleg.org)

**Script 1:**

Caller: Hello, may I speak with the staffer who handles youth services and public safety legislation?

I would like [Legislator's Name] to support efforts that call for the closure of the New Jersey Training School for Boys ("Jamesburg") and the Female Secure Care and Intake Facility ("Hayes"), and the reinvestment of funds into a community-based system of care. I believe it is time elected officials in Trenton work together to transform New Jersey's youth incarceration system into a community-based system of care. Thank You.

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**Action 2:**

The New Jersey Institute for Social Justice sent out a survey to Senators and Assemblymembers running for reelection, as well as their challengers, asking for their positions on a variety of issues. Assemblyman Daniel R. Benson and Assemblyman Wayne P. DeAngelo both indicated on their surveys that they supported closing Jamesburg and Hayes, and reinvesting funds into a community-based system of care. Please call to thank them for taking this position.

**Legislators:**

NJ Legislative District 14, (Mercer & Middlesex Counties): Cranbury, East Windsor, Hamilton (Mercer), Hightstown, Jamesburg, Monroe (Middlesex), Plainsboro, Robbinsville, Spotswood

Assemblyman Daniel R. Benson  
Phone: (609) 631-0198  
asmbenson@njleg.org

Assemblyman Wayne P. DeAngelo  
Phone: (609) 631-7501  
asmdeangelo@njleg.org

**Script 2:**

Caller: Hello, may I speak with the staffer who handles youth services and public safety legislation?

Caller: I'm calling to thank [Legislator's Name] for supporting efforts to close the New Jersey Training School for Boys ("Jamesburg") and the Female Secure Care and Intake Facility ("Hayes"), and reinvest funds into a community-based system of care. I believe it is time elected officials in Trenton work together to transform New Jersey's youth incarceration system into a community-based system of care. Thank You.

Once again, I appreciate [Legislator's Name] support of efforts to transform New Jersey's youth incarceration system. Thank you.

**Need more information?**

*Check out the Institute's report, [Bring Our Children Home: Ain't I A Child](#), available at [www.njisj.org](http://www.njisj.org).*