

Thank you for giving this bill a hearing, I urge each of you to support HB1140. I live in Seattle but I am going to speak on my experiences growing up in Skagit county and my family who still live there.

My bi-racial but largely Hispanic-presenting nephew has been in and out of the juvenile and now criminal system as long as I can remember. I *know* he falls in all the categories Antoinette Kavanaugh described earlier from the studies. But it wasn't until he was in the criminal system that he was diagnosed with schizophrenia and bipolar disorder. If he *ever* would've had access to an attorney any of the times he interacted with police, I *know* he 1) would've had less on his record and 2) would've received help earlier. If he just once could've interacted with a professional who had the skill set, connections, and legal knowledge to make it clear from the get-go that he suffered from mental health disorders and couldn't have been interrogated the way I *know* he was--with zero rights as a hispanic-presenting biracial juvenile living in poverty--his life would be different. It's the chance and opportunity here that makes the difference.

We know that youth of color are significantly disproportionately disciplined in schools, put into juvenile detention and continue to grow up in a system intent on punishing them. In no thanks to establishing a record as early as possible.

The most-recent available data

Across all counties as well as Juvenile Rehabilitation holds--which make up 232 of the 11,519 across WA--I'll compare our statewide juvenile demographics to our K-12 ones in the same 2018 year--the most recent data:

- 50.0% of all admissions to detention in 2018 involved a European American/White youth--with the state being 54.4% white youth, so they're underrepresented here
- 27% of detention admissions were Latino/Hispanic youth, despite the state being 23.1% hispanic--so overrepresented
- 14.8% of juvenile admissions were African American/Black youth, despite the state being 4.3% African American--so **over triple** the representation in our juvenile system
- Compare also the 4.3% admissions being Native American/Alaska Native youth while they made up only 1.4% of our state youth population--again, **quadruple** the representation in our juvenile system
- And 2.5% of juveniles admitted were Asian American youth in a state where they constitute 1.1% of the youth population.

Regardless of the undeniable data, I in general, have **no** idea why or how any person no matter their job could sit here and argue that *a citizen of the US*, regardless of their age, *doesn't deserve a right to counsel*.