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Dear Mr. Clerk,

I am pleased to submit to you the following report on behalf of the Juvenile Justice Policy and Data (JJPAD) Board:

- COVID-19 and the Juvenile Justice System: Recommendations for Supporting Youth and Preventing Future Delinquency

The report discusses the ways the COVID-19 pandemic has affected youth's current—as well as possible future—involvement with the Massachusetts juvenile justice system, drawing on research on risk factors of juvenile justice involvement, delinquency prevention, and positive youth development. It also makes recommendations for concrete actions state government actors can take to mitigate the impact the pandemic has had on youth and support their positive development.

The JJPAD Board was established as a permanent entity by “An Act Relative to Criminal Justice Reform” in 2018. The Board, which I chair, consists of members representing a broad spectrum of stakeholders involved in the juvenile justice system as well as child welfare and other child serving agencies. The Legislature charged the JJPAD Board with evaluating juvenile justice system policies and procedures and making recommendations to improve outcomes.

The report is attached to this email, and also available for download at:

<https://www.mass.gov/doc/covid-19-and-the-massachusetts-juvenile-justice-system-jypad-report-october-2021/download>

Our office is happy to further discuss these reports with you and/or your staff. Please contact Jessie Brunelle, our Legislative and Communications Director, with any questions. She can be reached at Jessie.Brunelle@mass.gov.

Thank you,

Maria Z. Mossaides
Director, Office of the Child Advocate