



LOS ANGELES COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE
SACRAMENTO LEGISLATIVE OFFICE

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The Honorable Mia Bonta
California State Assembly
1021 O Street, Suite 5620
Sacramento, CA 95814

ASSEMBLY BILL 2361 (BONTA)
SUPPORT

Dear Assembly Member Bonta:

The Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office is pleased to support Assembly Bill 2361.

AB 2361 requires a juvenile court to find that a minor is not amenable to rehabilitation while under the jurisdiction of the juvenile court in order to transfer the minor to a court of criminal jurisdiction.

The California Supreme Court has stated that the central issue in a transfer hearing is whether the juvenile is amenable to the care, treatment, and training programs available in the juvenile court.

Welfare and Institutions Code §707 outlines five criteria judges must consider at a transfer hearing before deciding if a youth should be transferred to adult court. This criteria includes (1) the degree of criminal sophistication; (2) whether the minor can be rehabilitated prior to the expiration of the juvenile court's jurisdiction; (3) the minor's previous delinquent history; (4) the success of previous rehabilitation attempts by the juvenile court, and the circumstances; and (5) the gravity of the offense alleged in the petition to have been committed by the minor. However, there is little guidance as to how the court should weigh those criteria.

The transfer of a juvenile to adult court is an extremely serious decision with a lifetime of consequences, and one which should not be taken lightly. Requiring the juvenile court to make a finding that a minor is not amendable to rehabilitation in the juvenile court before transferring the minor to adult court is consistent with existing law, the Supreme Court's ruling on what the central issue is in a transfer hearing is, and with the state's goal to reduce the number of juveniles unnecessarily transferred to adult court.

For these reasons our Office is pleased to support AB 2361.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact Daniel Felizzatto in my Sacramento Legislative Office at (916) 442-0668.

Very truly yours,

GEORGE GASCÓN
District Attorney