Preamble: Young People Emerging (YPE) Act is a criminal justice reform proposal to expand upon the Incarceration Reduction Amendment Act of 2016 (IRAA).
To: Nicole Porter  
From: Young Men Emerging (YME) Mentors: Joel Castón, Michael Woody, Tyrone Walker, Momolu Stewart, Charles Fantroy, and Halim Flowers  
Date: November 13, 2018  
Re: Young People Emerging (YPE) Act  

Please find the following proposal for your consideration:

♦ IRAA
- Under the IRAA, a Court may reduce a term of imprisonment imposed on a defendant for an offense committed before the defendant was 18 years old (1) if the defendant has served at least 20 years and is not yet eligible for parole; and (2) the Court finds that “the defendant is not a threat to the safety of any person or the community and that the interest of justice warrants a sentence modification.” D.C. Code § 24-403.03(a)(1)-(2).

♦ YPE Act
- YPE seeks to expand upon IRAA by raising the age limit for an offense committed before the defendant was 25 years old in consistency with science. “Recent research in neurobiology and psychology now strongly suggests that cognitive skills and emotional intelligence continue to develop into a person’s mid-twenties and even beyond.”

♦ Abolishment of Indeterminate Life Sentences
- D.C. Code offenders whose criminal offenses occurred prior to August 5, 2000 were given so-called “indeterminate” sentences, which are sentences that include the possibility of parole. However, indeterminate life sentences have no maximum release dates, creating a sentencing disparity compared to offenders with determinate sentences for identical crimes. An assessment of the impact on sentence length and sentencing disparities likely to result from implementation of the Truth in Sentencing Amendment Act of 1998... A recommendation as to whether determinate sentencing should be extended to all felonies.” D.C. Code §3-104(a)(b)(2)

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