Director's Monthly Brief

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Responsible Public Policy

The Department of Youth Services (DYS) touches the lives of thousands of youth in Ohio. Beyond youth in DYS facilities and those on parole, DYS funds and supports over 610 direct service programs throughout the state offering nearly 110,000 youth (based on annual program admissions) opportunities and services to effect positive change.

Addressing Collateral Sanctions

Governor Kasich signed the Collateral Sanctions Bill, S.B. 337 (Seitz, Smith)/ H.B. 524 (McGregor, Heard) into law on June 26, 2012. This legislation reduces collateral sanctions or those barriers that impact juveniles, including breach of confidentiality involving juvenile records, educational hindrances for youth returning to their communities and laws or administrative codes that impede a youth's employability. This legislation will help youth and adults receive a fresh start upon reentry into the community. It benefits youth by:

- **Promoting and ensuring the confidentiality of juvenile records**
- **Developing the juvenile portion of the Civil Impacts of Criminal Convictions Database (CIVICC) to clearly distinguish between adult convictions and juvenile adjudications in background checks**
- **Allowing judges the discretion to seal juvenile records when appropriate**

"We are doing the right thing here. We are holding Ohioans and their families up. We've created more than 94,000 jobs in Ohio, and now if these Ohioans have made amends, they can compete for some of the jobs," said Governor Kasich at the bill signing.

I am appreciative of the Juvenile Justice Workgroup that worked hard to ensure this legislation addressed the specific barriers that impact juveniles. Thank you to all of the citizens who provided input at our public forums on addressing collateral consequences. I would also like to express gratitude to all of the representatives from juvenile court judges, non-profit foundations, advocacy organizations, treatment providers and DYS staff who contributed.

Please join me in celebrating the passage of this law, which gives a true second chance for those youth who have turned around their lives.