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Patrick Moran – President

**SB 744-Juvenile Reform Law
Judicial Proceedings Committee
February 9th, 2024**

Favorable with Amendment

Good afternoon, Chair Smith, Vic-Chair Waldstreicher, and members of the Judicial Proceedings Committee. Thank you for the opportunity for AFSCME Council 3 to submit testimony in favor of HB814 with an amendment, to the Juvenile Reform Law.

In a time when community leaders and others are demanding a need for public safety, we understand the need for members of the general assembly to address the state's juvenile justice system aiming to combine accountability and rehabilitation. As we move forward to address these much-needed reforms within the juvenile justice system, we ask that we continue to include the experience and expertise of our state workers employed within this system by including workers to the Commission on Juvenile Justice Reform and Emerging and Best Practice.

We are asking the committee to amend the bill to include the following amendment:

Add the following language to Page 19, Line 20, moving all subsequent language down:

(V) two shall be employees of the Department with different job titles, recommended by the President of the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees, Council 3.

Adding worker's voices to these conversations ensure that the perspectives, and concerns of workers are represented in decision-making processes. They also possess expertise and firsthand knowledge about the work which, includes workplace conditions, and challenges. Their expertise can be invaluable when addressing policy issues that affect workers and the people they serve. Lastly, our workers are accustomed to collaborating with diverse stakeholders to address complex challenges. By including them on the commissions, there is an opportunity to foster collaboration between government agencies, and other key stakeholders in finding innovative solutions to pressing issues we face within the juvenile justice system.

Our members have an invested interest in this work and seeing good reforms and decisions are being implemented. We want to be a partner as we have been by serving on the State Advisory Board for Juvenile Service. We ask for the opportunity to do the same on the commission.

We thank the committee for your time, and we respectfully ask for a favor report with amendments to SB744.

