



**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**  
God's work. Our hands.

January 11, 2018

**To:** The Honorable John Spiros and Assembly Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety

**Regarding:** AB 660

Dear Chairman Spiros and Committee Members,

I am representing the Lutheran Office for Public Policy, a statewide advocacy ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. We advocate for just policies, especially related to hunger and poverty based on our social statements and Christian scripture.

We speak in favor of AB 660 to help 17-year-old Youth Offenders Receive a Better Chance to Change. We believe that engaging with these young people in the juvenile rather than adult justice system will increase their chances of finding a better future. Before our neighbors in Illinois passed the same type of bill, they paid attention to research that showed reduced recidivism among 17-year-old offenders tried in juvenile courts.

I believe that this bill has identified a group of people in our population who would have an easier time remaining connected to their families, rehabilitating, and finding a better future if they go through the juvenile justice system. We hope that will be the case for this bill.

Please vote in favor of AB 660.

Sincerely,

Pastor Cindy Crane, Director

*Let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream! Amos 5:24*