



325 W. Main St.
Suite 2210
Louisville, KY 40202

(502) 581-9746
ACLU-KY.org
@ACLUofKY

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Hon. Andy Beshear
Governor of Kentucky
Office of the Governor of Kentucky
700 Capital Ave., Ste. 100
Frankfort, KY 40601

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

Governor Beshear:

We request that you ***VETO*** Senate Bill 20.

Senate Bill 20 creates an automatic transfer rule for children to be tried as an adult if certain factors are present in the alleged offense.

Children who commit offenses should be treated as children. Research demonstrates that trying children as adults does not increase public safety. In fact, one study found that children prosecuted as adults were 34% more likely to commit additional offenses than children who committed a similar offense but remained in the juvenile court system.¹

Additionally, automatic transfer rules disproportionately affect Black children who are overrepresented in Kentucky's juvenile justice system. According to Kentucky Youth Advocates, Black youth account for 11% of the state's population of children, but account for 20% of the kids in the juvenile justice system.

To help address some of these issues, *just three years ago*, the General Assembly passed SB 36 that gave judges and prosecutors more discretion on whether to try children as adults.

Senate Bill 20 would essentially repeal SB 36.

Kentucky's children need investments in community programs, education, and access to mental health providers.

We ask that you stand with Kentucky's youth and veto SB 20.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Kungu Njuguna
Policy Strategist
ACLU of Kentucky