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# HB181156

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Limit Penalties From Juvenile Truancy



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caseloads and therefore increased quality of services, or no change to staffing levels or quality of service but reduced caseloads and the ability for staff to take on new areas of work.

### Conclusion

Truancy detention procedures are costly, inefficient, and burdensome. If passed, HB181156 will likely reduce long-term social and judiciary cost burdens as well as indirect damages incurred by the state and local communities. The most prevalent consensus seems to be that the largest cost burdens are incident upon juveniles, their families, and lower socioeconomic communities which tend to widen social disparities as well.

By removing the option of detention from state law however, it will be necessary to shift resources toward prevention, innovative action plans, alternative educational opportunities, and community outreach groups. The secondary provision in HB181156 will facilitate and aid in this necessary shift which places emphasis on early intervention and collaboration in lines with the evolved form of the School Attendance Law. This presents an opportunity for individualized treatment of troubled youth because truancy proceedings often uncover other socioeconomic problems. As Zerylnick puts it, "between school collaboration by social services amid a truancy proceeding, the School Attendance Law mechanism to advance child welfare as opposed to existing for the sole purpose of punishment."<sup>13</sup> By passing HB18-1156 this claim will be supported by furthering the law's goal of advancing child welfare.

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<sup>12</sup> (Resorative Justice Colorado, 2015)

<sup>13</sup> (Zerylnick, 2014)

# 5 H I H U H Q F H V

Justice Policy Institute. (2014). *Sticker Shock*. D.C.: Justice Policy Institute.

National Center for School Engagement. (2016). *Attendance in Denver: Prevalence, Effects, and Interventions*. Denver: NCES.

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- *Restorative Justice Colorado* and *The Colorado Lawyer*