

Public Comment on S.133
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The idea of Youthful Offender Court is to preserve a young person's ability to have a future. It is myopic to think that all charges should start in public eye in Criminal Court will not have a profound effect on a young person's ability to seek and maintain stability in their life. Stability meaning, maintaining their job, housing, transportation, community connections and family. All proceedings for all individuals under the age of 22 should start in the privacy of Family Court. The court of public opinion: gossip, drama, and the sensationalizing created by public proceedings, is the largest player in the ruination a young person's future. We live in a state where proving reasonable or probable cause is not necessary because we have no grand jury, even for many of the "big twelve." So, one person's accusation never has to meet any minimum level of credibility to justify a charge. One person's "story" to the right ear is all it takes to bring someone to court. Keep all arraignments of young people private to preserve their future. The Judicial System has ample opportunity along the way to paint a scarlet letter on every alleged young offenders' breast. **The goal is to not destroy a young offenders future, think outside the judicial system, no one actually lives in the there. They live in communities that shame, blame, eject and reject them. Preserve our youth by keeping all initiating proceedings closed to the public.**