

“Weather Reports”

- Three DCF union representatives testified on February 16, 2024 in Senate Judiciary and on April 25, 2024 in House Judiciary about raise the age. The following are excerpts from notes on that testimony: “Raise the age would be detrimental to our work. In my opinion it would not be possible to manage it under current workload. Our system is failing. If we don’t press pause we will do more harm than good in our community. We are stretched beyond the breaking point. Youth are significantly more dangerous today. The impact of drugs and weapons have been devastating. Resources for substance use are just not there. If implemented now, it will create more harm. The house is already on fire. Kids we are seeing are different—higher needs now. We do not have a system in place to address these youth needs. We are not ready to do raise the age.”
- Prosecutors provided [written feedback](#) in September 2024, including the following excerpts: “Our DCF office is losing workers consistently. They have not done the legislative work necessary to make this a reality. [RTA] creates barriers and delays for circumstances which do not comfortably fit in family court due to safety or severity. RTA burdens overworked participants in the process with more hoops to jump through. It benefits no one as [youthful offender status] is already available. DCF is not ready for Raise the Age. It can’t manage the current juveniles and youthful offenders on probation. the court does not have the proper resources and laws to compel 18- and 19-year-old delinquents to engage in the process. I recognize that DCF is understaffed, overworked, and constantly triaging their cases, but this does not serve our community. This is a statute that only benefits young offenders and does not similarly protect young victims.”
- Excerpts from the [discussion section](#) of this study of Massachusetts RTA implementation: “[W]e recommend taking a cautious approach to future expansions of RTA until evidence of projected benefits can be confirmed. . . . [T]he results of the present investigation suggest that any pending or future implementations of RTA must grapple with the expanding evidence base that RTA policies, while well-intentioned, have produced limited evidence of programmatic benefits to affected populations and growing evidence of iatrogenic harms in the form of increased future justice involvement.”