

From: [Lyn Judge](#)
To: [KCC - Committee Assistants \(Email Group\)](#)
Subject: Protect youth and adopt the youth right to counsel
Date: Monday, July 20, 2020 10:30:24 AM

Young people should have the right to speak with an attorney before police officers can search, interrogate, or pressure them into giving up their constitutional rights. Youth are more vulnerable than adults to police coercion because their minds are still developing. They also have a harder time understanding, asserting, and protecting their rights in the face of pressure from authorities.

BIPOC are particularly vulnerable, as generations of systematic oppression cause many to distrust law enforcement and fear consequences for asserting their rights. Black youth need the opportunity to speak with a lawyer before anyone else to protect their constitutional rights during interactions with police.

In 2019, 86% of youth jailed and 72% of youth protected in King County were BIPOC. This level of racial disparity is simply unacceptable and indefensible. Please protect youth by giving them access to an attorney before police officers can question or search them.

Thank you for your time,
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