

My name is Tyler and I'm a formally adjudicated youth in the state of Kansas and youth leader with Progeny. I support Hb 2073

My fines and fees testimony begins with my first case at the age of 13. I was transported from Oklahoma City to Junction City and was charged \$840, an expensive transport for sure. My complete costs totaled to \$1,064.69 before aftercare.

While I was adjudicated for almost 6 years, anytime money was sent from my family for my books, half was taken for "court costs". This also happened once I graduated and achieved employment, where I made anywhere from 25 cents an hour to a dollar an hour. During my total stay I managed to pay off \$270.

Upon my release, there were things such as violent offender registration and probationary costs regularly. I was released from probation after getting my first job working minimum wage in fast food. No longer being on probation I lost my ability to stay at the halfway house that was helping me get on my feet and became homeless with no family in state. I began receiving calls on a weekly basis from the county demanding I make a payment or be faced with wage garnishments and other punishments if I did not comply. Working minimum wage with \$80 a week payments while being homeless unbearable.

My story is just one example of the financial burdens placed on the young people by the juvenile justice system. I was lucky enough to get connected with organizations that helped me get on my feet. If we really want to help kids rehabilitate back into society after making a mistake, we need to stop trapping youth and financial crises. We need to end the insanity of treating kids like adults.