

Legislative Resolution Template

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF JUSTICE COUNTS

WHEREAS, Justice Counts is an initiative led by the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Justice Programs' Bureau of Justice Assistance, The Council of State Governments Justice Center and over 21 partners to develop and help implement consensus-driven metrics for criminal justice agencies; and

WHEREAS, the Justice Counts metrics are consensus-driven, developed in partnership with a wide range of experts across the criminal justice system; and

WHEREAS, [State] policymakers are often forced to make critical decisions about the safety of their constituents using limited or stale criminal justice data; and

WHEREAS, [state a specific criminal justice issue in your state]; and

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Example: WHEREAS, [Example criminal justice statement] Georgia has the highest probation rate in the country, with 1 in 17 adults on probation. Between 2016 and 2017, probation revocations in Georgia had nearly doubled; and

Example: WHEREAS, [Example criminal justice statement] At the end of FY2019, Kansas Department of Corrections was operating at 101 percent of capacity, creating overcrowded prison conditions and persistent staffing challenges; and

Example: WHEREAS, [Example criminal justice statement] Oregon has one of the highest rates in the nation of people with mental illnesses and substance use disorders, and death rates from drug overdoses and suicides are growing and;

WHEREAS; Justice Counts would remedy this by ensuring decision-makers have access to consistent, timely, and accurate data across the criminal justice system; and

WHEREAS, states such as [states] have committed to implementing the Justice Counts metrics.

Therefore Be It Resolved that the State of [insert state here] supports the Justice Counts Metrics and urges policymakers throughout state and local government entities to implement and utilize them and commit to making the latest criminal justice data available.

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