The Coalition to Protect Raise the Age: Build Futures, Invest in Youth responds to newly released data from the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice.

"New data released today from the New York City Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice makes clear that Raise the Age legislation is not driving crime trends. Since New York State enacted legislation raising the age of criminal prosecution from 16 to 18, the youth share of citywide felony and violent felony arrests has **not changed**.

"Evidence shows that community-based programs and services for young people who have contact with police is the surest way to promote community safety. Since its enactment, the Raise the Age law has been a success, giving many young people the opportunity to change course while promoting lasting public safety. Still, there is a pressing need for investment in programs that emphasize rehabilitation, education, and community-based alternatives all across the state.

"This report shows that 16- and 17- year olds are not, contrary to sensational soundbites, driving an increase in crime. The data reflecting an increase in arrests for serious violent felony offenses among 13-15 year olds, who were not impacted by Raise the Age legislation, reflects the critical need to invest in robust supportive services that research shows produce better public safety outcomes than incarceration. Such programs must be accessible for all youth.

"The **Youth Justice Innovation Fund** would increase programming for **all** young people ages 12-25 and direct $50 million to **community-based organizations to provide a continuum of services** from prevention and early intervention, to alternatives to detention, placement and incarceration. The Innovation Fund builds on successful state-wide efforts like Project RISE, which has brought over $30 million to communities to combat gun violence through public health strategies, including credible messenger and violence interruption programs. It would also deliver needed resources to New York City, which has until now been cut out of Raise the Age funding.

"We urge action to secure funding to create a continuum of investment and support for New York communities and youth."

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