

**From:** [In Our Care SMC](#)  
**To:** [commissionstreamlining](#)  
**Subject:** September 3, 2025 Agenda Item 6: Juvenile Probation Commission  
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## **Commission Streamlining Task Force**

Dear Chair Harrington and Task Force Members,

We write on behalf of In Our Care San Mateo County to express strong opposition to the recommendations under consideration that would alter the City Charter to weaken the San Francisco Juvenile Probation Commission (JPC). These recommendations, if approved, would not only dismantle decades of reform but expose system-impacted youth and families to deeper inequities and lasting harm.

In Our Care San Mateo County is a community group devoted to honoring the humanity of youth involved in the legal system. About 40% of San Francisco's incarcerated youth annually are "Out of County" young people from San Mateo, Alameda, and Contra Costa counties. Your decision will have wide-reaching implications for residents of neighboring counties.

Since San Francisco voters approved establishment of a separate Probation Department specifically for youth, and for more than three decades now, the JPC has served as a model of robust, community-centered oversight. Reformers across the state aspire to implement this model of transparency and best practices. Weakening the JPC's authority would jeopardize accountability for a system that already overburdens communities of color, whose youth are vastly overrepresented in the juvenile justice and child welfare systems.


San Francisco voters and policymakers correctly recognized that youth justice requires a separate and specialized approach. To diminish or eliminate the JPC's authority would be a fundamental betrayal of that mandate and set a dangerous precedent that weakens youth justice oversight across California.

We urge the Commission Streamlining Task Force to reject these recommendations in their entirety.

Respectfully,

Becca Kieler and Beth von Emster, Co-founders  
In Our Care San Mateo County



 [honoring the humanity of  
youth in the legal system](#)