



June 6, 2023

The Honorable Colorado State Senate
74th General Assembly
First Regular Session
Colorado State Capitol
200 East Colfax Avenue
Denver, CO, 80203

Dear Honorable Members of the Colorado State Senate:

Today, I am signing Senate Bill 23-088, "Concerning an Offender's Eligibility for Release from Confinement," which tasks the Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice (CCJJ) with submitting a report to the General Assembly on or before June 30, 2023, regarding the commission's work on sentencing reform, clarity and certainty in sentencing, and the CCJJ's efforts to provide clarity to the public, victims, defendants, and their families, pertaining to the amount of time that must be served on a sentence prior to parole eligibility.

I thank the sponsors for bringing this bill forward, which is meant to help inform better policies for victim notifications and certainty in sentencing. I also want to acknowledge the sponsors' personal lived experiences which helped inform their decision to sponsor this legislation. The experience of victims and their families should never be diminished, and I appreciate policies that help bring transparency and certainty to those impacted by crime.

While I support this legislation and believe that it is valuable, it will be very difficult for the CCJJ to fully complete the requirements in this bill due to its statutory repeal date of September 1, 2023. Due to the failure of the legislature to reauthorize CCJJ, the CCJJ will be hosting its final meeting in early June of this year. While the bill was amended to change the reporting deadline from January 21, 2024 to June 30, 2023 to take into consideration the General Assembly's actions, the above circumstances and expedited timeline will limit the CCJJ from fulfilling the requirements of Senate Bill 23-088. Shortly I will be taking Executive action to continue some of the work of CCJJ in a new forum, and will request any additional work contemplated in this bill to be completed by this newly assembled body to the extent possible.

Strengthening victims' rights by providing more clarity and certainty in our criminal justice system is a critical component in increasing public safety and public trust. I look forward to working to improve these policies and continuing to work to make Colorado one of the top ten safest states.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jared Polis".

Jared Polis
Governor
State of Colorado