

STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY SAFETY BILL 2023

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Submitted by: Schae Gregory
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As a retail worker and community member, I have seen first hand the danger these youth put on the community. I have witnessed and been victim of assault, harassment, and vile abuse from children as young as 10 years old. We have been spat on, pushed, punched and taunted, with daily threats to our lives and threats to our personal property purely because these children are wanting to steal from our stores. I have personally heard first hand from these offenders that they are pushing their younger counterparts to commit the crimes because they are aware that the older they get, the tougher the punishment. After all, why risk the possibility of receiving an ankle monitor and a week long sentence if you can ask your 10 year old sibling to do the initial crime for you? I implore the government and magistrates to implement these measures, taking into consideration the offenders criminal history and bail history, and ensure that they are serving the entirety of their sentences whether suspended or otherwise. Serving a week long sentence in a detention centre where they are provided takeaway meals and get to spend time with their friends only provides a 'home away from home' for the offenders. This is a matter of community safety and should be taken seriously. How many members of the public need to die as a result of youth crime? How many of the youth offenders themselves are going to die before something changes?