

# It is costly to charge youth and families fees and fines.

## Collection costs outweigh revenue.



Oregon **spent \$866,000 to collect \$864,000** in support fees for youth in custody in 2019.<sup>1</sup>



Arizona **spends 85 cents for every \$1 it collects** in youth fees.<sup>2</sup>



More than **70% of all revenue from youth fees** in California **went toward collecting fees** from other families.<sup>3</sup>

## Collection rates are low and decrease with time.

90% of juvenile court fees in Oregon are more than 5 years old, which the state considers “**virtually uncollectible.**”<sup>4</sup>



The Louisiana Office of Juvenile Justice **collected 6%** of all fees ordered in 2018.<sup>5</sup>

## Taxpayer money is wasted on collections.



The Montana Department of Corrections spent \$300,831 to collect \$238,721 in incarceration fees from families with youth in custody between 2018-2021. This means **\$62,110 tax dollars were lost on efforts to collect this one type of fee.**<sup>6</sup>

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**states have repealed at least one youth fee and/or fine**<sup>7</sup>

## Fees generate costly collateral consequences for families and communities.

A 2016 benefit-cost analysis found that abolishing youth fees in a single California county would result in a net financial benefit to society of more than \$5.5 million due to state and local administrative savings and reduction of labor market harms and wage garnishment.<sup>8</sup>

Sources  
1. Oregon Department of Justice, Division of Child Support.  
2. Policy Advocacy Clinic, University of California, Berkeley Law, “Fiscal Analysis of H.B. 2033.”  
3. Policy Advocacy Clinic, University of California, Berkeley Law.  
4. Oregon Judicial Department.  
5. Policy Advocacy Clinic, University of California, Berkeley Law, “Juvenile Administrative Fees in Louisiana.”  
6. Public Records Request Response from Montana Department of Corrections, sent to Policy Advocacy Clinic, University of California, Berkeley Law.  
7. Debt Free Justice Campaign, “Our Impact.”  
8. Mayer, et al., “An Economic Analysis of Charging Administrative Fees to Justice-Involved Youth.”

