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December 2, 2020



SUPPORT CHILDREN'S HEALTH AND WELL-BEING COSPONSOR S.4360/H.R.7848, THE COUNSELING NOT CRIMINALIZATION IN SCHOOLS ACT

Dear Senator/Representative,

On behalf of The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, a coalition charged by its diverse membership of more than 220 national organizations to promote and protect the civil and human rights of all persons in the United States, and the 232 undersigned organizations, we urge you to cosponsor S.4360/H.R.7848, the Counseling Not Criminalization in Schools Act. This legislation would divert federal funding away from school-based law enforcement and toward evidence-based and trauma-informed services that create positive learning environments. Children deserve the chance to learn, grow, and thrive in schools. After spending roughly \$1 billion in federal funds on increased police presence in schools with no increased safety or improved climates, the evidence shows that school-based police have no place in that environment.

Young people themselves have long led the way in calling for police-free schools.¹ Their demands are now, finally, being met in some communities, as the national reckoning with violent policing – especially police violence directed at Black people – and corresponding policing budgets is forcing long overdue change.² Congress has a responsibility to children and youth to reserve federal funds for counselors, nurses, and those supportive adults who are specially trained to help build positive learning environments and support children's success. The Counseling Not Criminalization in Schools Act prohibits federal funds that support the hiring, recruitment, and placement of police officers on K-12 school campuses and, instead, establishes a \$2.5 billion grant program to invest in school districts that remove law enforcement so that schools can provide adequately trained personnel and trauma-informed services to improve the learning environment for children.

Federal support for school-based law enforcement directly promotes the school-to-prison pipeline. Much of this funding has come through the Department of Justice Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS). COPS has provided approximately \$1 billion in federal grants to state and local governments for the policing, surveillance, and

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 ¹ Riley, Katie. "Police Do Not Belong in Our Schools.' Students are Demanding an End to Campus Cops After the Death of George Floyd." *Time*. June 5, 2020. <u>https://time.com/5848959/school-contracts-police/</u>.
 ² Jones, Sarah. "Protests Are Galvanizing Demands to Take Cops Out of Schools." *Intelligencer*. June 12, 2020., "Should police officers be in schools? California education leaders rethink school safety." *EdSource*. June 11, 2020., "The End of Police in Schools." *U.S. News*. June 12, 2020., "While The Push to Defund Phoenix Police Grows Stronger, Activists Want Officers Out of Schools." *The Copper Courier*. June 16, 2020., "Current city budget proposal would remove police from RCSD schools." *Democrat & Chronicle*." June 3, 2020., "Fort Collins students rally for change to Poudre School District race, policing policies." *Coloradan*. June 8, 2020.

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militarization of schools.³ The largest sustained effort of DOJ's COPS Office was the Cops in Schools (CIS) Program⁴, which funded the hiring and training of thousands of school resource officers (SROs) by local law enforcement agencies.⁵ This has had a profound impact on the number of law enforcement officers in schools, with almost 57 percent of public schools nationwide reporting having security staff present at least once a week as of 2016.⁶ Much like law enforcement presence more generally, the increase in officers in schools disproportionately harms students of color, students with disabilities, and LGBTQ students.

Recent research has directly linked the COPS Program funding to negative outcomes for students. For example, after reviewing data from 2.5 million students, researchers found that receiving federal COPS funding for school police in Texas increases disciplinary rates for middle school students by 6 percent, and exposure to the CIS grant decreases high school graduation rates by approximately 2.5 percent and college enrollment rates by 4 percent.⁷ Another study examining the more recent COPS Hiring Program compared public schools that enhanced SRO staffing through that federal funding with a matched sample of schools that did *not* increase SRO staffing at the same time. The researchers concluded that the "findings suggest that increasing SROs does not improve school safety and that by increasing exclusionary responses to school discipline incidents it increases the criminalization of school discipline."⁸

Increased police presence in schools has caused devastating harm to young people's futures and educational outcomes. The direct consequence of police in schools, coupled with the systemic biases and failures of police departments across the country, is the criminalization of typical adolescent behavior,⁹

³ Federal Research Division, Library of Congress. (Aug. 2017). School Safety Policies and Programs Administered by the U.S. Federal Government: 1990–2016. https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/grants/251517.pdf. (Past programs included: School-Based Partnerships (1998–1999; \$30 million), COPS in Schools Program (CIS) (1999–2005; \$823 million), Justice-Based After School Program (2000–2001; individual sites received nearly \$3 million), Secure Our Schools Program (SOS) (2002–2011; \$123 million), and Making Officer Redeployment Effective (MORE).)

⁴ The Cops in Schools program was crafted to ensure local governments would sustain school policing even after they stopped receiving federal dollars by requiring agencies accepting CIS grants to "commit to continuing the grant-funded SROs" for an additional year after federal funding stopped. Although funding is no longer appropriated for the Cops in Schools Program, jurisdictions may still use grants obtained through the COPS Office to hire SROs.

⁵ Federal Research Division, Library of Congress. (Aug. 2017). School Safety Policies and Programs Administered by the U.S. Federal Government: 1990–2016. https://www.ncjrs.gov/pdffiles1/nij/grants/251517.pdf. (Past programs included: School-Based Partnerships (1998–1999; 330 million), COPS in Schools Program (CIS) (1999–2005; \$823 million), Justice-Based After School Program (2000–2001; individual sites received nearly \$3 million), Secure Our Schools Program (SOS) (2002–2011; \$123 million), and Making Officer Redeployment Effective (MORE).)

⁶ U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Studies. (2018). *Percentage of public schools with security staff present at school at least once a week, by type of security staff, school level, and selected school characteristics*:2005-06, 2009-10, and 2015-16. <u>https://nces.ed.gov/programs/digest/d18/tables/dt18_233.70b.asp</u>

⁷ Emily K. Weisburst, "Patrolling Public Schools: The Impact of Funding for School Police on Student Discipline and Long-Term Education Outcomes (A Sub-project of 'Building Pathways to College Access and Beyond')" (Education Research Center, November 2018), 3, <u>https://texaserc.utexas.edu/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/21-UTA034-Brief-BPCAB-11.118.pdf.</u>
⁸ Denise C. Gottfredson, et al., "Effects of School Resource Officers on School Crime and Responses to School Crime,"

Criminology and Public Policy 19, no. 3 (2020), https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1111/1745-

^{9133.12512?}utm_content=PublicationUpdate&utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery.

⁹ See American Civil Liberties Union. (2019). Cops and No Counselors How the Lack of School Mental Health Staff Is Harming Students. <u>https://www.aclu.org/sites/default/files/field_document/030419-acluschooldisciplinereport.pdf</u> (listing 25 most common behaviors that lead to school arrest and criminal charges. The number one criminal charge is "disrupting school" for

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with deep and disturbing racial implications.¹⁰ While Black children are only 15 percent of all children in school nationwide, they make up 33 percent of the children arrested,¹¹ despite research showing that children of color do not misbehave more than their white counterparts.¹² Certain subgroups, like Southeast Asian American children of refugees, are also disproportionately affected by police in schools, but they are often overlooked because of aggregated data on "others."^{13,14} Troublesome disparities also exist for children with disabilities, where the data show they are nearly three times more likely to be arrested than children without disabilities.¹⁵ A child may be disciplined both by the school and by law enforcement, and studies show that students who are suspended or expelled are then up to three times more likely to become involved with the juvenile legal system.¹⁶ The school discipline system is operating as a quasi-legal system but in most instances children have no access to counsel, particularly a specialized juvenile defense attorney, in this system. Moreover, students who face arrests are less likely to graduate, succeed academically, and have stable employment.¹⁷ All of these factors then increase one's likelihood of coming into contact with either the juvenile or criminal legal system.¹⁸

In addition to its troubling consequences for student success, increased presence of law enforcement officers in schools supported by federal funding undermines student safety. Proponents of school policing often cite student safety as their primary justification, but there is no substantial evidentiary support for that assertion.¹⁹ In fact, several studies have suggested that the presence of prison-like conditions such as armed officers in schools may actually make students feel less safe than if there were no police in the

¹¹ Education Week. (2017). Which Students Are Arrested the Most? <u>https://www.edweek.org/ew/projects/2017/policing-americas-schools/student-arrests.html#/overview.</u>
 ¹² Advancement Project, et al. (Mar. 2018 re-release). Police In Schools Are Not The Answer To The Newtown Shooting.

¹² Advancement Project, et al. (Mar. 2018 re-release). Police In Schools Are Not The Answer 1o The Newtown Shooting. <u>http://dignityinschools.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/Police-In-Schools-2018-FINAL.pdf</u>. ("[P]olice officers perceive Black youth differently than they do white youth, and this bias, not any actual difference in behavior, leads to the over-criminalization of students of color. Police see Black children as less 'childlike' than their White peers and overestimate the age and culpability of Black children accused of an offense more than they do for white children accused of an offense.")
¹³ Jung, P., et al. (Dec. 2015). Asian Americans & Pacific Islanders Behind Bars: Exposing the School to Prison to Deportation

¹³ Jung, P., et al. (Dec. 2015). Asian Americans & Pacific Islanders Behind Bars: Exposing the School to Prison to Deportation Pipeline. <u>https://www.searac.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/18877-AAPIs-Behind-Bars_web.pdf</u>

¹⁴ Hu, C., and Esthappan, S. (May 2017). Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, a missing minority in criminal justice data.
 <u>https://www.urban.org/urban-wire/asian-americans-and-pacific-islanders-missing-minority-criminal-justice-data</u>
 ¹⁵ American Civil Liberties Union. (2019). Cops and No Counselors How the Lack of School Mental Health Staff Is Harming

Students, https://www.aclu.org/issues/juvenile-justice/school-prison-pipeline/school-prison-pipeline-infographic

¹⁷ Jason Nance, Students, Police, and the School-to-Prison Pipeline, 93 Wash. L. Rev. 919, 926 (2016), available at https://scholarship.law.ufl.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1782&context=facultypub.

¹⁸ Jason Nance, *Students, Police, and the School-to-Prison Pipeline*, 93 Wash. L. Rev. 919, 926 (2016), *available at* https://scholarship.law.ufl.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1782&context=facultypub.

¹⁹ National Association of School Psychologists. (2013). *Research on School Security: The Impact of Security Measures on Students.* (citing Garcia, C. (2003). School Safety Technology in America: Current Use and Perceived Effectiveness. *Criminal Justice Policy Review* 14(1), 30-54; Addington, L. (2009). Cops and Cameras: Public School Security as a Policy Response to Columbine. *American Behavioral Scientist*, 52(10); Borum, R., Cornell, D., Modzeleski, W., and Jimerson, S. (2010). What Can be Done About School Shootings? A Review of The Evidence. *Educational Researcher* 39(1); Casella, R. (2006). Selling Us the Fortress: The Promotion of Techno-security Equipment for Schools. *Routledge. See also* American Psychological Association Zero Tolerance Task Force. (2008). Are Zero Tolerance Policies Effective in the Schools? An Evidentiary Review and Recommendations. *American Psychologist* 63(852).

[&]quot;spraying perfume, fake burping, fake fart spray, refusing to change a t-shirt, and criticizing an officer"); see also Advancement Project, et al. (Mar. 2018 re-release). Police In Schools Are Not The Answer To The Newtown Shooting. http://dimension.org/um_actiontor/pulsed/2018/07/Delice_In_Schools 2018

htp://dignityinschools.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/Police-In-Schools-2018-FINAL.pdf
 ¹⁰ Theriot, Matthew T. (2009). School Resource Officers and the Criminalization of Student Behavior. *Journal of Criminal Justice*, 37, 280–287. See also Nance, Jason P. (2016). Students, Police, and the School-to-Prison Pipeline," University of Washington Law Review, 93(919).

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school.²⁰ In schools with predominantly Black and Brown youth — where SROs are concentrated — children are often the victims of violent and unchecked attacks by SROs themselves, many of whom are trained to enforce the criminal code, rather than help foster a nurturing environment.²¹ Students of color across the country are, conservatively, assaulted by school police at a rate of about one assault per week.²² Moreover, constant policing and surveillance in a place where youth are supposed to feel safe can in and of itself be trauma-inducing, regardless of the intent of the officers.²³ LGBTQ students have also reported facing hostile interactions with and, in some instances, verbal assaults by the SROs that have been appointed to protect them.²⁴

In contrast, supportive approaches to improving school climates — such as restorative and traumaresponsive practices, positive behavioral interventions and supports, mental health care, and additional counselors, nurses, and social workers — have proven to be effective at producing a safe and supportive learning environment, including by helping students address the root causes of conflict and reducing school infractions.²⁵ Nevertheless, most schools with SROs don't have counselors, mental health professionals, or other individuals specifically trained to help students cope with stress or trauma.²⁶ Federal funding must incentivize the replacement of school-based law enforcement with evidence-based practices, identified in collaboration with communities, for maintaining school safety, inclusion, and support to ensure child well-being.

For too long, the presence of school-based law enforcement has come at the expense of personnel and services that create safe, healthy, and inclusive school climates. Our nation is at an inflection point with

²⁰ National Association of School Psychologists. (2013). *Research on School Security: The Impact of Security Measures on Students*. (citing Schreck, C. and Miller, J. (2003). Sources of Fear of Crime at School: What is the Relative Contribution of Disorder, Individual Characteristics and School Security? *Journal of School Violence*, 2(4), 57-79; Gastic, B. (2011). Metal Detectors and Feeling Safe at School. *Education and Urban Society*, 43(4)486-498.

²¹ Weisburst, E. (2019). Patrolling Public Schools: The Impact of Funding for School Police on Student Discipline and Long-Term Education Outcomes (A Sub-project of "Building Pathways to College Access and Beyond"). *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*, 0(0), 1–28. (listing examples of officers: in South Carolina slamming a student to the ground; in Baltimore slapped, kicked, and yelled at a student while another officer watched; in Philadelphia punched a student and put him in a chokehold after the student tried to use the restroom without a pass; in Pittsburgh punching out a student's tooth; and in Pinellas Park, Florida, using a stung un on an unarmed student); *See also*, Advancement Project. *We came to learn*, A *Call to Action for Police-Free Schools*. http://advancementproject.org/wp-content/uploads/WCTLweb/index.html#page=2, (stating "[s]afety does not exist when Black and Brown young people are forced to interact with a system of policing that views them as a threat and not as students" and mapping over 60 instances of police brutality on students)

 ²² Advancement Project & Alliance for Educational Justice have tracked SRO assaults for more than three years. The complete tracker is on file with Advancement Project. For more information about this project, visit WeCametoLearn.com.
 ²³ See, e.g., Nikki Jones, *"The Regular Routine": Proactive Policing an Adolescent Development Among Young, Poor Black*

²³ See, e.g., Nikki Jones, "The Regular Routine": Proactive Policing an Adolescent Development Among Young, Poor Black Men, 143 New Directions Child and Adolescent Dev. 33 (2014) (finding that routine police interaction injures a young person's sense of self, especially when these interactions occur during adolescence); Amber J. Landers et al., Police Contacts and Stress Among African American College Students, 81 Am. J. Orthopsychiatry 72 (2011) (finding greater frequency of police contact correlated with greater stress across all types of police contact, regardless of intrusiveness; even innocuous treatment by police, if frequent, increased stress levels).

²⁴ https://www.lambdalegal.org/protected-and-served/schools

²⁵ Nance, J. (2016). Dismantling the School-to-Prison Pipeline. Arizona State Law Journal, 48. (citing Johnson, D., Allensworth, E., and Steinberg, M. (May 2011). Student and Teacher Safety in Chicago Public Schools: The Roles of Community Context and School Social Organization. Consortium on Chicago School Research at the University of Chicago Urban Education Institute. https://consortium.uchicago.edu/sites/default/files/2018-10/SAFETY%20IN%20CPS.pdf)

²⁶ American Civil Liberties Union. (Mar. 2019). Cops and No Counselors How the Lack of School Mental Health Staff Is Harming Students. <u>https://www.aclu.org/sites/default/files/field_document/030419-acluschooldisciplinereport.pdf</u>.

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the funding for, and role and presence of, law enforcement agencies in marginalized communities, as Black, Latino, Native, and Southeast Asian people continue to be unjustly targeted by police officers. Youth advocates are — and have been — leading the way on this charge in K-12 schools and on college campuses.²⁷ Policymakers must follow this leadership and ensure Black, Native, Latino, Southeast Asian American children, and other historically marginalized students attend schools that include the supportive professionals who build positive learning environments and are free from school-based law enforcement. We urge you to join in the call for safe, inclusive, and healthy schools by cosponsoring the Counseling Not Criminalization in Schools Act. We appreciate your consideration and would welcome the opportunity to connect further on this legislation. If you have any questions, please contact Arielle Atherley, Policy Analyst, The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights at atherley@civilrights.org.

Sincerely,

National Organizations:

The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights A. Philip Randolph Institute ACCESS ADL (Anti-Defamation League) Advancement Project Advocates for Youth African American Ministers In Action Alliance Against Seclusion and Restraint Alliance for Boys and Men of Color American Association for Colleges of Teacher Education (AACTE) American Association of University Women (AAUW) American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC) Americans for Democratic Action (ADA) American Friends Service Committee Amnesty International USA Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance, AFL-CIO Association of University Centers on Disabilities Athlete Ally

²⁷ See, for example: Riley, Katie. "Police Do Not Belong in Our Schools.' Students are Demanding an End to Campus Cops After the Death of George Floyd." *Time*. June 5, 2020. <u>https://time.com/5848959/school-contracts-police/</u>, Jones, Sarah. "Protests Are Galvanizing Demands to Take Cops Out of Schools." *New York Magazine*. June 12, 2020. <u>https://nymag.com/intelligencer/2020/06/the-movement-to-take-cops-out-of-school-is-picking-up-steam.html</u>, "Should police officers be in schools? California education leaders rethink school safety." *EdSource*. June 11, 2020. <u>https://edsource.org/2020/should-police-officers-be-in-schools-california-education-leaders-rethink-school-safety/633460</u>, "The End of Police in Schools." *U.S. News*. June 12, 2020. <u>https://www.usnews.com/news/the-report/articles/2020-06-12/schoolsdistricts-end-contracts-with-police-amid-ongoing-protests</u>, "While The Push to Defund Phoenix Police Grows Stronger, Activists Want Officers Out of Schools." *The Copper Courier*. June 16, 2020. <u>https://coppercourier.com/story/students-demand-removepolice-school-campus-phoenix/</u>, "Current city budget proposal would remove police from RCSD schools." *Democrat & Chronicle*." June 3, 2020. <u>https://www.democratandchronicle.com/story/news/education/2020/06/03/rochester-police-resdschool-resource-officers-budget/3130156001/</u>, "Fort Collins students rally for change to Poudre School District race, policing policies." *Coloradan*. June 8, 2020. <u>https://www.coloradoan.com/story/news/2020/06/08/fort-collins-students-rally-changepoudre-school-district-race-policing-policies/5320326002/</u>.

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Augustus F. Hawkins Foundation Autism Society of America Autistic Reality Autistic Self Advocacy Network Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law Boston Area Youth Organizing Project Campaign for Youth Justice Center for American Progress Center for Disability Rights Center for Law and Social Policy (CLASP) Center for Popular Democracy Center for Public Representation Children's Defense Fund Church World Service Civitas ChildLaw Center, Loyola University Chicago School of Law Clearinghouse on Women's Issues Committee for Children Communities for Just Schools Fund Communities In Schools Council of Parent Attorneys and Advocates Defending Rights & Dissent Dignity in Schools Campaign Disability Rights Advocates Disability Rights Education & Defense Fund (DREDF) Drug Policy Alliance Education Law Center Education Reform Now Educators for Excellence Equal Justice Society Equal Justice Under Law Excellence and Advancement Foundation Feminist Majority Foundation Futures Without Violence Girls Inc. GLSEN GO-HIGH CORP Human Rights Campaign IDRA (Intercultural Development Research Association) Iota Phi Lambda Sorority, Inc. Japanese American Citizens League Justice For Families Juvenile Law Center KIPP Law Enforcement Action Partnership Lawyers for Good Government (L4GG) Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law League of Women Voters of the United States Legal Action Center

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MANA, A National Latina Organization Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund Minority Veterans of America MomsRising NAACP NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc. National Alliance for Partnerships in Equity (NAPE) National Association of Counsel for Children National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers National Association of Social Workers National Black Child Development Institute National Center for Learning Disabilities National Center for Parent Leadership, Advocacy, and Community Empowerment (National PLACE) National Center for Special Education in Charter Schools National Center for Transgender Equality National Center for Youth Law National Council of Churches National Council on Independent Living National Crittenton National Down Syndrome Congress National Employment Law Project National Equality Action Team (NEAT) National Juvenile Defender Center National Juvenile Justice Network National LGBTQ Task Force Action Fund National Network for Arab American Communities National Organization for Women National PTA National Urban League National Urban League Young Professionals National Women's Law Center NDRN OCA - Asian Pacific American Advocates Open Society Policy Center PolicyLink POPS the Club Prison Policy Initiative Project KnuckleHead Public Advocacy for Kids (PAK) Public Justice Results for America Safe Routes Partnership SOSSI- Saving Our Sons & Sisters International Southeast Asia Resource Action Center (SEARAC) SparkAction Speak Up Special Education Advocacy SPLC Action Fund Stand for Children

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StoptheDrugWar.org Strategies for Youth Student Voice Teach Plus The Advocacy Institute The Coalition of Labor Union Women The Daniel Initiative The Education Trust The Equiticity Racial Equity Movement The Expectations Project The Forum for Youth Investment The Taifa Group TNTP Treatment Communities of America UnidosUS United Methodist Women UNITED SIKHS Youth on Board YWCA USA

State & Local Organizations:

334 East 92nd Street Tenant Association AdvocacyDenver Advocates for Children of New York Advocates for Justice Advocates for Justice and Education, Inc. African Caribbean American Parents of Children with Disabilities, Inc. (AFCAMP) Agency for Humanity Association for Community Living in Boulder & Broomfield Counties Black in Lawrence, NJ Boston Student Advisory Council (BSAC) BronxConnect Brothers, Sons, Selves Coalition Center for Pan Asian Community Services, Inc. Central NJ Democratic Socialists of America Children's Defense Fund-NY Children's Rights Clinic Colorado Children's Campaign Committee for Hispanic Children and Families Community Coalition Community Inclusion & Development Alliance Community Organizing and Family Issues Connecticut Public School Advocates Crafts for Justice Daughters4Justice Denver Affiliate of the National Black Child Development Institute (BCDI-Denver) **Disability Rights Maryland**

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Disability Rights Tennessee Education Justice Alliance Education Law Center - PA Eggerts Crossing Civic League Equality North Carolina Evanston Latinos Families and Friends of Louisiana's Incarcerated Children Families Helping Families of Greater New Orleans Family Voices NJ Fannie Lou Hamer Center For Change Federation for Children with Special Needs Forward Justice Maryland Friends of Goody Bassett Georgia Coalition for the People's Agenda Greater Sacramento NAACP Gwinnett SToPP Houston Area Urban League Howard Brown Health InnerCity Struggle Justice for Women Task Force Juvenile Justice Coalition Khmer Girls in Action LA Brotherhood Crusade Latino Memphis Lawyers for Civil Rights Legal Aid Justice Center LULAC-IL Maryland Center for Developmental Disabilities at Kennedy Krieger Institute Mazzoni Center Mercer for Abolition Montgomery County Civil Rights Coalition NAACP Boulder County Branch New York Initiative for Children of Incarcerated Parents Nollie Jenkins Family Center, Inc. Northwest Bronx Community & Clergy Coalition Not in Our Town Princeton NYCLU Osborne Association Parents Organized for Public Education PEAK Parent Center Philadelphia Alliance for Child Trauma Services POWER-PAC ILLINOIS Project M.O.V.E. (Making Our Visions Evident) Racial Justice NOW! REACH (Resources and Educational Advocacy for Classroom Help) REYSE Collaboratory @Clemson University Salvation and Social Justice Schools Not Jails

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Southern Coalition for Social Justice SPAN Parent Advocacy Network Special Education Equity for Kids of Connecticut Special Needs Advocacy Network, Inc. (SPaN, Inc), MA Student Advocacy, Inc. Sunflower County Parents and Students United Tennessee State Conference NAACP Texas Progressive Action Network The Arc of Colorado The Arc of the Central Mountains The Arc of The Mid Ohio Valley Inc The Arc of West Virginia The Choice Program at UMBC The Institute for Compassion in Justice The Virgin Islands University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities Trenton Branch NAACP True Vine Christian Academy Urban League of Louisiana Virginia Coalition of Latino Organizations Virginia Council on LGBTQ+ Voices for Schools Women and Girls Foundation: GirlGov Young Voices Youth Justice Education Clinic, Loyola Law School YWCA Kalamazoo YWCA Minneapolis