Advocacy:
What we are doing and how you can get involved.
Advocators

Our Advocator Team is over 2,500 strong.

Each team member brings unique insights, skills, and resources.

You are all appreciated and valued!

We need all of us!

Thank you!
We've Gone Global
Our Mission: To change how our most vulnerable kids are understood and treated.

Punitive, exclusionary discipline is counterproductive, harmful, unnecessary and disproportionately applied to Black and Brown students and students with disabilities.

- Detention
- Suspension
- Expulsion
- Corporal Punishment
- Restraint
- Seclusion
- Police Involvement
The Stats We Cannot Ignore:

Annually in U.S. schools:

- 5.4 million in-and-out of school suspensions
- Countless millions of detentions
- 291,000 referrals to law enforcement
- 106,000 uses of corporal punishment
- 101,990 uses of restraints and seclusions
The Financial Cost:

Average annual cost, per child, of juvenile detention in the US
- $120,000

Dollars spent annually on incarceration in US
- $85 Billion

Annual cost, per child, placement outside of home school in US
- $15,000-$120,000

Estimated annual cost to society of punitive, exclusionary school disciplinary practices in the US
- $35 Billion
Federal Legislation

- Keeping All Students Safe Act
- Protecting Our Students in Schools Act
- Counseling Not Criminalization Act
- Ending PUSHOUT Act
- The Accountability for Congregate Care Act
Keep All Students Safe Act

Establish minimum safety standards in schools by:

- Prohibiting seclusion, mechanical restraints, chemical restraints, physical restraint that restricts breathing or is life threatening
- Require certification of staff conducting physical restraint that meets the minimum standards
- Prohibit physical restraint as a planned intervention
- Require parental notification and follow-up meetings if a physical restraint occurs
Keeping All Students Safe Act

Support states to provide training to ensure safety and establish monitoring and enforcement systems:

- Require each state has its own policies, procedures, monitoring and enforcement systems
- Allow states to apply for grants for support in establishing, implementing, and enforcing policies and procedures
- Improve state and local capacity to analyze the data and improve school climate
Keeping All Students Safe Act

Increase transparency, oversight, and enforcement to prevent future abuse and death by:

● Requiring state to collect and report data on the use of seclusion and restraint annually
● Making data about restraint and seclusion publicly available while protecting student privacy, including data on the number of incidents, injuries, cases of death, and the demographic breakdown
Protecting Our Students in Schools Act

- Prohibits the practice of corporal punishment in any school that receives federal funding
- Establishes numerous enforcement protections, including private right to action, the involvement of attorney general and the Office for Civil Rights, and a series of rigorous reporting requirements for states and school districts
- Establishes a grant program to improve school climate and culture by implementing positive, proactive measures to reduce exclusionary and aversive discipline practices
### States that Allow Corporal Punishment

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Counseling Not Criminalization Act

- Prohibit the use of federal funds for hiring, maintaining, or training police officers in K-12 schools and divert the funds towards other uses related to school safety
- Invest billions to support schools hiring mental health and trauma-informed support personnel to create safe and inclusive learning environments
- Incentivize states and districts to bring an end to the criminalization of young people, particularly Black, Native American and Latino students, immigrant students, students with disabilities, LGBTQ+ students and other historically marginalized students
Ending PUSHOUT Act

- Establish $2.5 billion in new federal grants to support states and schools that commit to ban unfair and discriminatory school practices and improve school climates
- Protect the Civil Rights Data Collection (CRDC) and strengthening the Department of Education’s (ED) Office of Civil Rights (OCR): and
- Establish a Federal Interagency Taskforce to End School Pushout and examine it Disproportionate impact on girls of
The Accountability for Congregate Care Act

- Provide funds to states to develop congregate care best practices and reporting procedures
- Collect data to guide policy responses
- Provide training for state officials, social workers, mental health professionals, and judicial employees
Lives in the Balance: Raising Awareness

- New website is full of free resources and research
  - One page information sheet documenting punitive practices in each state
  - *Kids We Lose* is free and available through website
  - Punitive Index is about to be updated
  - New research and resources for each punitive practice
  - Walking Tour for Educators and Walking Tour for Parents
- Sharing relevant news and research on Facebook and Twitter
- Facilitating our Journal Club on Child Behavior and Book Club
Lives in the Balance: Taking Action

- Fully engaged in supporting the federal bills
- Meeting with members of Congress and their staff urging them to cosponsor and support the bills
- LITB Children’s Mental Health Conference was free and dedicated to KASSA and Protecting Our Students in Schools Act *(Recording available!)*
- Phone2Action--free service urging Senators and Representatives to cosponsor and support KASSA and Protecting Our Student in Schools Act
Lives in the Balance: Taking Action

- Collaborating with like-minded organizations to combine efforts to pass legislation
- Scholarships: Changing Course School Discipline Initiative
- Sharing press releases and research with journalists
- Supporting Advocators efforts to make policy changes within their schools
- Creating database on pending state legislation to focus state level advocacy
What You Can Do

- Visit HurtingisNotHelping.org to learn about bills and email members of Congress
- Inquire about state laws and policies
- Ask for data on punitive practices in school district and local facilities
- Inform Maile about pending state legislation
- Inform Maile on upcoming changes in policies and procedures in schools and facilities
- Stay current in research to support conversations with others
- Help grow our Advocator team
- Distribute punitive practice information sheet to state legislators, school board members, superintendents, special education directors, and principals
What You Can Do

- Share link to the Kids We Lose documentary
- Join Advocators Facebook Page
- Follow @LITB_ on Twitter
- Share relevant news and research with Maile
- Join Book Club
- Join Journal Club on Child Behaviors for Healthcare Providers
- Share our scholarship information with principals and superintendents
- Post Bill of Rights for Kids with Concerning Behaviors in your home, office, or workplace
Let’s Brainstorm!
Stay Connected to Maile

Please stay connected!

advocacy@livesinthebalance.org

We can set up a Zoom or phone call!
Research and Resources

- A 26-Year Study of Restraint Fatalities Among Children and Adolescents in the United States: A Failure of Organizational Structures and Processes
- The Crisis of Trauma and Abuse in Our Nation's Schools
- How to End the Cycle of Restraint and Seclusion in Schools
- School Discipline Linked to Later Consequences | Harvard Graduate School of Education
- Out-of-School Suspension and Expulsion
- The Effect of Spanking on the Brain | Harvard Graduate School of Education
- Envisioning School Safety Without Police
- Black Girls Matter: Pushed Out..Overpoliced and Underprotected
- An Alternative to Exclusionary Discipline