



# Advocacy:

What we are doing and how  
you can get involved.



**LIVES**  
IN THE  
**BALANCE**



# Advocators

Our Advocator Team is over 2,500 strong.

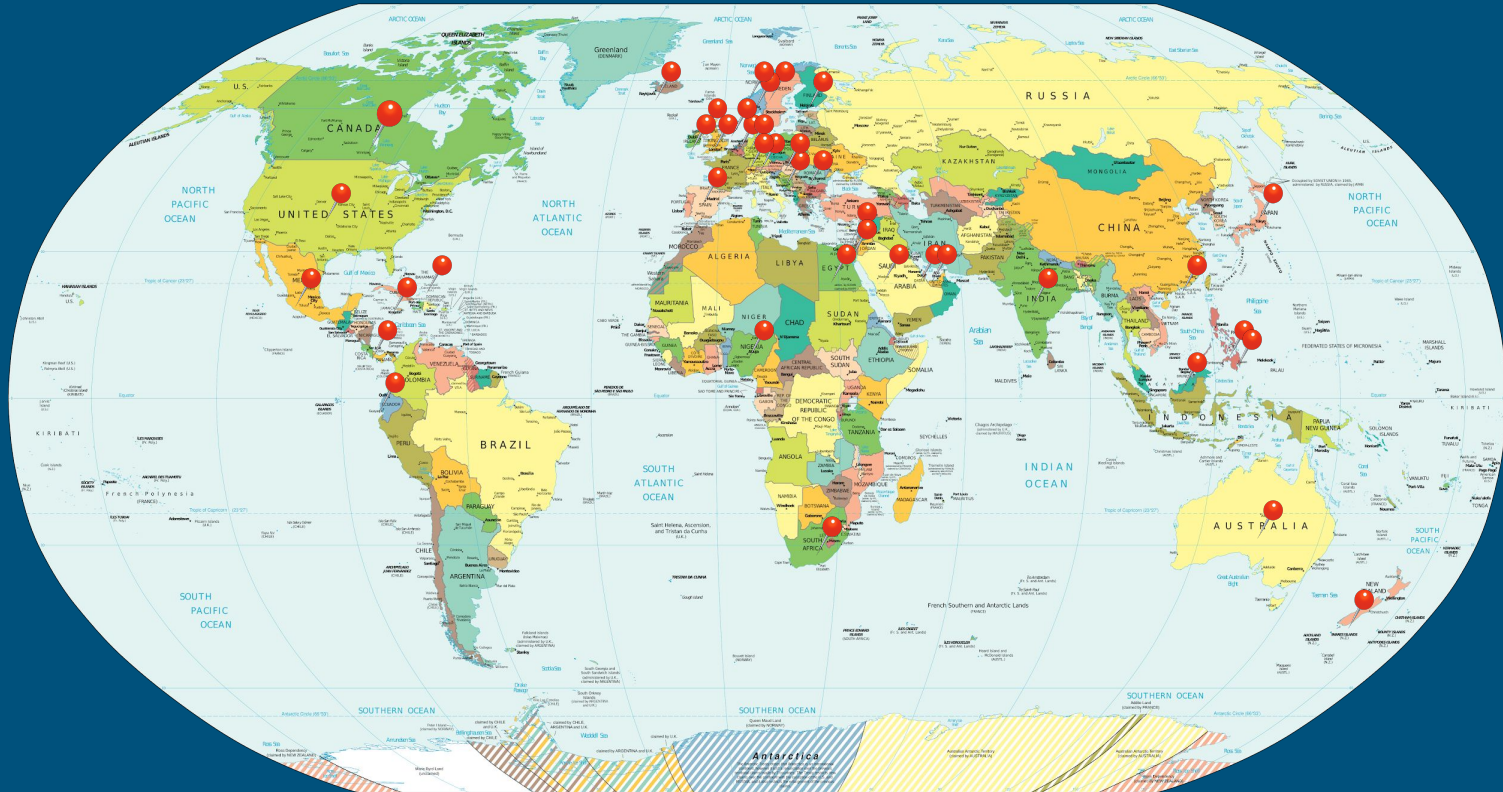
Each team member brings unique insights, skills, and resources.

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:

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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

- \$120,00

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

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- 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

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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

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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

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- 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

Wyoming

Kentucky

Arkansas

Texas

Kansas

Arizona

Tennessee

Indiana

Alabama

South Carolina

Idaho

Florida

Oklahoma

Illinois

Louisiana

Missouri

Georgia

Mississippi

Colorado

# Counseling Not Criminalization Act

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- 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

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- 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 its Disproportionate impact on girls of

# The Accountability for Congregate Care Act

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- 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

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- 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](http://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

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- 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!

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# Stay Connected to Mail

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Please stay connected!

[advocacy@livesinthebalance.org](mailto: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