

For Immediate Release

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DIGNITY IN SCHOOLS CAMPAIGN APPLAUDS INTRODUCTION OF HOUSE RESOLUTION ON SCHOOL PUSHOUT

The Dignity in Schools Campaign today praised House Rep. Chris Murphy (D-CT) for introducing a landmark resolution on school pushout on Friday, December 17th.

The resolution, sponsored by Rep. Chris Murphy (D-CT), was inspired by the December 2009 Dignity in Schools Campaign National Resolution for Ending School Pushout, a call to action issued one year ago and signed by more than 200 individuals and organizations from all 50 states (more information below).

The House resolution raises awareness of policies and practices that “disengage students from learning and remove them from the classroom, furthering a national crisis that is more accurately described as ‘push out,’ as opposed to ‘drop out,’ as children and youth are effectively pushed out of school.” It highlights the success of positive approaches to school discipline, such as positive behavioral interventions and supports (PBIS) and restorative practices, and pledges to work to “reduce or eliminate school suspensions (especially out-of-school suspensions), expulsions, arrests, corporal punishment, and placements in disciplinary alternative schools.”

Across the nation, an alarming number of students are denied educational opportunities as they are pushed out of school by degrading environments and an over reliance on zero-tolerance practices, law enforcement tactics, and punitive measures such as suspension and expulsion. The latest report from the National Center for Education Statistics found that more than 3.3 million students were suspended out-of-school at least once and 102,000 were expelled in one year alone.

This crisis impacts historically disenfranchised youth at higher rates. Black students are three times more likely to be suspended than their white peers, based on data from the Department of Education. These punitive practices do not reduce misbehavior but put students at greater risk of failing classes and dropping out. According to Education Week, each year, 1.3 million students that enter high school will not graduate.

Co-sponsors of the Resolution include: Danny Davis (D-IL), Robert Scott (D-VA), Judy Chu (D-CA), Yvette Clarke (D-NY), Steve Cohen (D-TN), Chaka Fattah (D-PA), Bob Filner (D-CA), Raul Grijalva (D-AZ), Alcee Hastings (D-FL), James Himes (D-CT), Rubén Hinojosa (D-TX), Barbara Lee (D-CA), Carolyn Maloney (D-NY), Carolyn McCarthy (D-NY), Gwen Moore (D-WI), Solomon Ortiz (D-TX), Donald Payne (D-NJ), José Serrano (D-NY), Carol Shea-Porter (D-NH), Bennie Thompson (D-MS), Debbie Wasserman Schultz (D-FL), and John Yarmuth (D-KY).

Marlyn Tillman of Dignity in Schools Campaign Member Group Gwinnett Parent Coalition to Dismantle the School to Prison Pipeline (Gwinnett STOPP) said, “This resolution is critical to the work we are doing in our communities to end school pushout. Congress is catching up with those of us on the ground fighting for our young peoples’ human right to education.”

[House Resolution 1777: Raising awareness of school pushout and promoting dignity in schools.](http://www.govtrack.us/congress/bill.xpd?bill=hr111-1777)
<http://www.govtrack.us/congress/bill.xpd?bill=hr111-1777>

[Dignity in Schools Campaign National Resolution for Ending School Pushout](http://www.dignityinschools.org/content/dignity-schools-national-resolution-ending-school-pushout)
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The House Resolution was inspired by the DSC National Resolution on Ending School Pushout released in 2009. National groups, like the National Education Association, the School Social Work Association of America, the American Civil Liberties Union, the Children’s Defense Fund and the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc., have signed on. Local community-based organizations fighting pushout in states across the country have also signed on, including Blocks Together (IL), Citizens for a Better Greenville (MS), Community Asset Development Re-defining Education (CADRE - CA), Community Rights Campaign of the Labor/Community Strategy Center (CA), Desis Rising Up and Moving (DRUM – NY), Family and Friends of Louisiana’s Incarcerated Children (FFLIC – LA), and Gwinnett Parent Coalition to Dismantle the School to Prison Pipeline (GA).