Coming Together to Dismantle the Cradle to Prison Pipeline

January 25, 2011
We who believe in freedom cannot rest.
Lifetime risk of boy born in 2001 going to prison

- Black boy: 1 in 3
- Latino boy: 1 in 6
- White boy: 1 in 17
Lifetime risk of girl born in 2001 going to prison

- Black girl: 1 in 17
- Latina girl: 1 in 45
- White girl: 1 in 111
One thing is clear …

The only thing our nation will guarantee every child is a detention or prison cell *after* they get into trouble.
Systems Fueling the Pipeline

- Pervasive poverty
- Racial and ethnic disparities
- Trauma / inadequate health and mental health care
- Gaps in early childhood development
- Disparate educational opportunities
- Chronic abuse and neglect
- Rampant substance abuse
- Overburdened and ineffective juvenile justice systems
Disparate Educational Opportunities

Percent of MA 4th Graders Who Cannot Read at Grade Level

- 81% Black
- 82% Latino
- 44% White

Percent of MA 4th Graders Who Cannot do Math at Grade Level

- 74% Black
- 77% Latino
- 35% White
For just one year.....
1,000
52,637
National Goals to Dismantle the Pipeline

- End Child Poverty
- Ensure Every Child and Pregnant Woman Access to Affordable, Seamless, Comprehensive Health and Mental Health Coverage and Services
- Provide High Quality Early Childhood Development Programs for All
- Ensure Every Child Can Read at Grade Level by Fourth Grade and Guarantee Quality Education through High School Graduation
- Protect Children from Abuse and Neglect and Connect Them to Caring Permanent Families
- Stop the Criminalization of Children at Increasingly Younger Ages and Invest in Prevention and Early Intervention
Campaign to Dismantle the Cradle to Prison Pipeline in Massachusetts

- Focus on the role of zero tolerance school discipline policies in funneling children into the pipeline
- Launch a broader education campaign to inform communities about the systems that fuel the pipeline
- Mobilize people to take action against the systems that fuel our youth into the pipeline.
Zero Tolerance Policies
Zero Tolerance Policies

Would you call the police if ....

• A 10-year old elementary school student took a pair of scissors out of her backpack during class?
• A 7-year old boy threw a backpack at a classmate?
• A 6-year old child had a temper tantrum?
• A 5-year old boy was misbehaving in school?
• Two 4-year olds refused to take their nap?
A 5-year old Florida girl handcuffed, arrested after tantrum in kindergarten
Zero tolerance in Massachusetts

- Would you expel a student for the rest of the school year for poking another student with a ballpoint pen?

- Would you exclude a student for four months for sharpening his pencil without permission and giving the teacher a “threatening” look when asked to sit down?

- Would you permanently expel a student for possession of an antibiotic due to a zero tolerance policy for drugs?

- Would you call the police, handcuff, and then expel a student who started a snowball fight on school grounds?
Call to Action

What Can We Do To Dismantle the Pipeline?
Thank you!

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