



## **CHANGING THE NARRATIVE: BREAKING THE PRESCHOOL TO PRISON PIPELINE CAMPAIGN Social Media Advocacy Kit**

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**Hashtags to use when sharing our advocacy messages:**

**#EMIGANetwork**

**#EndMassIncarcerationGA**

**#PreSchoolToPrisonPipelineEMIGA**

**#RaiseTheAgeEMIGA**

**#EndingPUSHOUTAct2021**

**#TooYoungToSuspend**

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### **• CALLS TO ACTION**

- **Raise the Age:** The Sheriff's Association is one of the strongest opponents of the "Raise the Age" legislation. Although [HB 272](#) passed the House and was passed out of the Senate Judiciary Non-Civil Committee during the 2021 legislative session, it was never sent to the full Senate for a vote. **What can you do? Call your local sheriff and let her/him/them know that you support raising the age of juvenile jurisdiction in Georgia to include our 17-year-olds.** Last year, more than 10,000 17-year-olds in Georgia were arrested for misdemeanors and placed in adult jails. 47 other states have already raised the age. Why are we burdening our state with the mass incarceration of our children and closing the door on our children's future with unnecessary criminal records?
- **Ending PUSHOUT Act of 2021:** In the U.S Congress, Rep. Ayanna Pressley (MA) recently reintroduced the [Ending PUSHOUT Act](#) to address the "school-to-confinement pipeline by investing in safe and nurturing school environments for all students, especially girls of color," who are up to seven times more likely to be suspended than their white female peers. **What can you do? Call your U.S. Representative and urge her/him/them to (1) sign onto this legislation and (2) vote for it when it comes to the House floor for a vote.** You can find out who represents you in the **U.S. House of Representatives** by going to the Georgia Secretary of State's [My Voter Page](#) or by visiting <https://www.house.gov/> and entering your zip code in the "FIND YOUR REPRESENTATIVE" app in the top right corner of the home page.

## **ADVOCACY MESSAGES**

### **Raise the Age - HB 272**

1. Georgia is one of only three states (Georgia, Texas, Wisconsin) that has not increased the age of juvenile jurisdiction to age 18.
2. 47 other states now keep 17-year-olds in the juvenile system. 47 other states realize that "raise the age" is about prevention, intervention and better outcomes, not about lack of accountability.
3. It is time to treat children like children in Georgia. Raise the Age of juvenile jurisdiction to 18, so that our 17-year-olds who make youthful mistakes have a fighting chance.
4. Georgia's children have a much harder time accessing higher education and growing into productive citizens, in part, because of our response to child behavior. When we lock the door on our children's potential, we lock out a better and more prosperous future for all of us.
5. 10,700 17-year-olds burdened with an unnecessary criminal record. Why is Georgia using mass incarceration as the answer for youthful offenses?

### **Ending PUSHOUT Act 2021**

1. Ending PUSHOUT Act of 2021 establishes \$2.5 billion in new federal grants to support states and schools that commit to ban unfair and discriminatory school discipline practices and improve school climates.
2. Black girls are seven times more likely to be suspended from school and four times more likely to be arrested at school, compared to white girls. Even as early as preschool, where Black girls make up only 20% of all girls, they make up more than half of all out of school suspensions. [National Black Women's Justice Institute, "End School Pushout for Black Girls and Other Girls of Color," (Sept. 2019) [https://static.wixstatic.com/ugd/0c71ee\\_7d6b6469aa144b0397a4d7cd5d0f8051.pdf](https://static.wixstatic.com/ugd/0c71ee_7d6b6469aa144b0397a4d7cd5d0f8051.pdf) and Center for American Progress, "From Preschool to Prison: The Criminalization of Black Girls," (Dec. 2017) <https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/race/news/2017/12/08/443972/preschool-prison-criminalizationblack-girls/>]
3. Increased policing in schools has been shown to increase surveillance and criminalization of students—especially students of color. [National Black Women's Justice Institute, Center on Poverty and Inequality, Georgetown Law, "Be Her Resource: A Toolkit About School Resource Officers and Girls of Color" (May, 2018) [https://www.law.georgetown.edu/poverty-inequality-center/wp-content/uploads/sites/14/2018/05/17\\_SRO-final-\\_Acc.pdf](https://www.law.georgetown.edu/poverty-inequality-center/wp-content/uploads/sites/14/2018/05/17_SRO-final-_Acc.pdf).]
4. Ending school pushout means keeping our youngest learners in the learning environment. Most suspensions and expulsions for our youngest learners in pre-k through 5th grade would be and should be eliminated.
5. The Ending PUSHOUT Act of 2021 calls for transparency and accountability by making data about pushout and other harmful discipline practices publicly available while protecting student privacy.