



A SAFER FUTURE FOR ALL

Investing in
REAL Community Safety





At MomsRising, we are clear. Every person, regardless of race, income, or zip code, deserves to feel safe. But the truth is, for far too long, the way we've been funding and structuring public safety in the United States isn't working. Our overreliance on policing has failed to deliver real safety while causing deep harm, especially in Black, Brown, Indigenous, and low-income communities. It's time to shift away from punitive systems and. It's time to shift away from punitive systems and toward public health-centered, community-based approaches that are already proving effective across the country.

The safest communities don't rely on more police. They have access to good schools, stable housing, jobs with fair wages, and strong public infrastructure. In contrast, excessive police funding has shown little correlation with crime reduction. For example, from 1985 to 2020, increased police spending in major cities did not lead to lower crime rates. Meanwhile, only 4% of police time is spent addressing violent crime, with most interactions involving traffic stops or nonviolent calls. We are also seeing an increase in police being called to respond to mental health crises, a growing community issue that police are neither trained for nor qualified to address in the types of ways that trained mental health professionals can.

There's hope with parents, caregivers, and communities showing that there's another way. Across the country, non-carceral, non-police-led initiatives are improving safety through prevention, care, and healing. These programs match the right response to the right need, connecting people in crisis to support, not harm, and punishment.

EXAMPLES OF COMMUNITY-BASED SAFETY THAT WORK

Denver STAR Program

The Support Team Assisted Response (STAR) program dispatches trained behavioral health professionals, rather than police, to respond to low-level, nonviolent 911 calls. In its first year, STAR responded to over 1,300 calls without a single arrest. The program helped reduce low-level crime by 34% in the areas it served.

Treatment Not Trauma in Chicago

This growing initiative advocates for investing in mental health professionals and crisis teams instead of policing. It seeks to reopen city-run mental health centers and establish a 24-hour, non-police crisis response system. These reforms are rooted in the belief that mental illness should never be a death sentence.

Credible Messenger Programs

In New York and Mississippi, formerly incarcerated individuals and community leaders with deep ties to their neighborhoods work directly with at-risk youth and adults. These messengers build trust, mediate conflict, and help break cycles of violence. Evaluations show they reduce recidivism and promote long-term behavioral change.

Mobile Crisis Response Teams

Cities across the U.S. are implementing civilian response units made up of clinicians and social workers who handle mental health, substance use, and homelessness-related crises. These teams dramatically reduce unnecessary arrests, hospitalizations, and fatal police encounters.

Offices of Violence Prevention

Cities like Newark and Philadelphia have established dedicated offices focused on interrupting violence before it happens. Newark's Office of Violence Prevention and Trauma Recovery uses a trauma-informed, community-rooted model. Philadelphia's Office of Policy and Strategic Initiatives for Criminal Justice & Public Safety coordinates violence prevention across agencies and has contributed to significant drops in shootings in targeted areas.



Denver STAR Program

LET'S BUILD THE FUTURE WE DESERVE

We don't have to choose between safety and care. We can have both, but only if we stop treating policing as the default response to every problem. It's time to invest in the people and programs that are already making our communities safer.

Families, caregivers, and community members: We have the power to advocate for real solutions. Let's demand that local, state, and federal leaders fully fund alternatives that center health, dignity, and safety for all of us.

Because everyone deserves a safe walk home.
A peaceful night's rest. A tomorrow full of promise.



WHY THIS APPROACH MATTERS

These programs work because they address the root causes of harm, poverty, trauma, mental illness, and disconnection. For example:

- » **Community violence intervention programs like Advance Peace have reduced gun homicides by 20–22% in the cities where they operate.**
- » **Summer youth employment programs have cut violent crime among disadvantaged youth by up to 43%.**
- » **Neighborhood improvement projects, like fixing vacant lots, installing streetlights, and building parks, consistently reduce crime and improve overall well-being.**



Julian Balderama throws up a peace sign on the streets of Stockton, California.

These are not “soft on crime” strategies. They are serious, evidence-based approaches to public safety. They work because they meet people where they are with empathy, expertise, and effective and practical support.

PUBLIC POLICY MUST FOLLOW COMMUNITY WISDOM

To truly scale these efforts, we need robust funding and policy support at all levels of government. Several federal bills offer a blueprint:

- » The People's Response Act would create a new Division on Community Safety at the Department of Health and Human Services to fund and coordinate public health approaches to safety nationwide.
- » The Mental Health Justice Act would fund state and local programs that send trained health professionals, not police, to mental health emergencies.
- » The Break the Cycle of Violence Act would invest in community violence intervention programs proven to reduce shootings and homicides.
- » The Counseling Not Criminalization Act would redirect federal funds from school police to counselors, mental health staff, and restorative justice programs.

These policies acknowledge that safety isn't just about stopping crime, it's about preventing harm, building resilience, and investing in care over control.



HEAR FROM MOMSRISING MEMBERS

ALABAMA

The People's Response Act is desperately needed in Mobile, Alabama, and throughout the southern states. Vote for it.

– James H., Mobile, AL

Our friend was having blood sugar issues, and we called the paramedics. A line of police cars arrived first, and they started barking orders and rummaging through his stuff. They went through his car and one of them grabbed a pill bottle and held it up like he'd just found something important.

My best friend kept telling them that they couldn't go through his stuff, and ended up calling a cop a name, and they arrested him for "disorderly conduct." They gave the bottle they found to paramedics and claimed he was found passed out by a bottle of pills.

For a week, his family and I were told that he'd attempted to kill himself, and the doctors working on him were misled to believe that. They could've gotten him killed.

– Victoria T., Gadsden, AL

Please stop killing the people you are to protect.

– Savannah R. Auburn, AL

This had gotten bad enough. Please hold police accountable for their criminal actions.

– Emily P., Birmingham, AL

Children shouldn't fear police officers, they should be the one they can trust to protect them from all harm.

– Ervie D., Dothan, AL

IN 2024,
POLICE
KILLED
1,365 PEOPLE



→ There were only 10 days
in 2024 when police did
not kill a person

FROM 2015–2024
POLICE KILLED
10,429 PEOPLE

SOURCES: <https://mappingpoliceviolence.org/>
<https://www.washingtonpost.com/graphics/investigations/police-shootings-database/>

"Please consider supporting as
many of these smaller, productive
pieces of legislation as possible.
We need every chance you are
willing to give our communities
and our children."

– JK A., Pelham, AL

"Police often abuse their authority, use intimidation tactics, and violate human rights. They need to know that they need to treat everyone with respect."

– Miriam V., Black Canyon, AZ

ALASKA

The police have failed, it is time to go another way.

– April W., Anchorage, AK

ARIZONA

This needs to end. We need to be treating people as humans!!! This is absolutely unacceptable.

– Samantha W., Scottsdale, AZ

This is the true act of American democracy. Pass it now.

– Richard C., Surprise, AZ

Stop police brutality in our society.

– Rosemary S., Tucson, AZ

STOP the lawlessness of those sworn to protect & serve.

– Joe G., Tucson, AZ

Enough is enough! There's no excuse for all these deaths!

– Patricia V., Tucson, AZ

Please improve public safety in the U.S. by passing the People's Response Act.

– Martha O., Scottsdale, AZ

BLACK PEOPLE ARE 2.8 TIMES MORE LIKELY TO BE KILLED BY POLICE

SOURCE: <https://mappingpoliceviolence.org/>

That is so backwards! Let's try to fix the problem before we end up having to fix the consequences of the problem!

– Patricia, Tucson, AZ

As caring and concerned people, for the health and well-being of current and future generations, pass the People's Response Act Now! This is the human, right, fair, just, and healthy action to take!!

– Mary Ann G., Tucson, AZ

ARKANSAS

Our citizens should not live in fear.

– Pamela F., Eureka Springs, AR

CALIFORNIA

A friend of mine was arrested for a crime he didn't commit, but because he didn't have enough money to make bail, he was in prison for several months, where

he was badly mistreated both by the prison guards and the other inmates!

Eventually, he contacted the Innocence Project, and they got the criminal record removed, so now he can again work, contribute to society, and support himself and his family.

– Evelyn P., Carmichael, CA

Police have tried to kill my kids so many times that I no longer trust them. Stop the violence. Police are out of control.

– Blaney K., Los Angeles, CA

Police officers need to have trauma-informed training and know how to self-regulate their own nervous systems as well as how to de-escalate situations. They should have an ongoing way to process their fears and past experiences.

– Ellen D., Los Angeles, CA

My nephew has ADHD and had many behavioral difficulties in school. In high school after his father died, he got easily upset. The counselor set up a plan whereby if he needed to calm down while in class, he could tell his teacher and go to see the counselor or sit in the office and wait for the counselor.

This time, when he sat down to wait, there was a police officer also sitting in the office. The officer started to talk to him and didn't let up. This was the last thing my nephew needed. It led to a shouting match between the officer and my nephew and he was expelled from the school to attend a school where his classes were online and there was essentially no social interaction.

Had there been a person trained to deal with teenagers, they would have known not to escalate the situation. The police officer's interaction did not help and led to my nephew's being expelled.

Is that what we need in our schools? I don't think so.

– Anna M., Menlo Park, CA

After a police complaint, police brutality was committed against me. My street was blocked by

MOST VICTIMS ARE YOUNG

→ **More than half
of people shot
and killed by
police are
between 20 and
40 years old.**

SOURCE: <https://www.washingtonpost.com/graphics/investigations/police-shootings-database/>

**"The People's Response Act
is so, so important! If this
were to pass, it would be
a watershed moment in
the United States. The way
forward is compassion and
understanding, and humane
limits. Please be on the cutting
edge of a new and
better society."**

– Susannah B., Fairfax, CA

police in both directions. We should never live in fear. I was granted restraining orders against all the officers I could identify. As long as it is covered up the abuse will continue or escalate.

– **Gloria G., Montebello, CA**

As a deaf senior, I am terrified of LAPD. I know I most likely will not hear/comprehend commands, and that is a valid reason for them to shoot/arrest me. What a horrible situation to be afraid of our police force! We deserve something better.

– **Elizabeth H., Porter Ranch, CA**

We adopted a child from Mexico when she was 2 years old. Being a white family, we never understood why she was mortally afraid of anybody wearing a uniform. At the age of 2, our daughter had been thoroughly traumatized by the people who are supposed to protect her. We are spending so much money on military and police. Just imagine if we would spend the same amount on education, social services, families, redirecting climate change.

– **Barbera D., Poway, CA**

I have been the victim of out-of-control police officers in San Diego, California, when I was detained without justification. I understand the pain anyone would feel when police officers exceed their authority.

– **Timothy K., San Diego, CA**

My 42 year old son is biracial and vulnerable to police brutality. I pray for his safety every day. I am begging you to pass this legislation that will improve the safety of our sons and daughters of color!

– **Miriam C., Santa Rosa, CA**

These reforms are long overdue. Please pass the People's Response Act. Thank you.

– **Catherine C., Berkeley, CA**

Violence isn't safety. Period.

– **Jean T., Berkeley, CA**

97% OF PEOPLE KILLED BY POLICE WERE KILLED IN A POLICE SHOOTING



→ **Each year, less than 3% of killings by police result in the officers being charged.**

SOURCE: <https://policeviolencereport.org/>

Stop killing our people based on race!

– **Helene M., Canyon Country, CA**

Equal justice under the law must be applied to all citizens of this country, irrespective of the color of their skin.

– **Arnold J., Chula, CA**

The People's Response Act is desperately needed IN EVERY COMMUNITY.

– **Amalia V., Hawthorne, CA**

Praying we stop the mayhem and treat everyone like a human being.

– **James, Los Angeles, CA**

We need to make sure that police protect citizens.

– **Sherry V., Los Angeles, CA**

Enough is enough! The United States needs Reform, now!

– **Bobbie C., Mariposa, CA**

We must enact systematic changes to improve public safety for ALL Americans.

– **Jennifer L., Mill Valley, CA**

The People's Response Act has the potential to transform public safety in the United States!

– **Nancy D., Mountain View, CA**

Please look into these measures and see if we can improve response to people's real needs. Thank you.

– **Sharon B., North Hollywood, CA**

Less violence. More communication. Especially more LISTENING.

– **Virginia S., Palo Alto, CA**

All people deserve safety.

– **Cecile A., Pasadena, CA**

The militarization of our police is a disgrace. We don't need cop cities. We need after-school programs, jobs, health care, and housing. We need smart, gentle interventions.

– **Leah S., Grass Va, CA**

We need this legislation for all communities now. Please, pass the People's Response Act.

– **Cara C., Placerville, CA**

Stop the police from brutally beating and stop the violence against young people of different races.

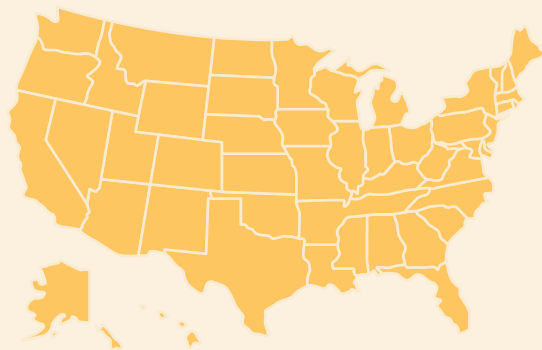
– **Marilyn M., Pomona, CA**

As a German immigrant, police in a school is absolutely unthinkable to me. There must be better ways of educating children!

– **Barbara D., Poway, CA**

Please pass the People's Response Act. It is so very important that the senseless killing stop! We should be past this kind of stuff.

– **Joise C., San Francisco, CA**



**BLACK AMERICANS
ACCOUNT FOR
12% OF THE U.S.
POPULATION
BUT ACCOUNT
FOR 25% OF
POLICE KILLINGS**

SOURCE: <https://policeviolencereport.org/>

"Our families and communities cannot live under the regime of police brutality. We must go to community policing, after-school and job programs, and the development of small cooperative businesses."

– **Lily M., CA**

We need to rethink policing and public safety, and listen to members of the community who need to be served!

– **Rebecca C., San Francisco, CA**

Stop police brutality!

– **Amelia D., Vally Center, CA**

FIX the system! This is horrific behavior consistently being rewarded by our public servants, not taking action! Do your job to protect the people of this country. Act Now!

– **Victoria S., Vista, CA**

We NEED the People's Response Act in our society!

– **Jo W., Rio Vista, CA**

Help our kids.

– **Elizabeth H., Rohnert Park, CA**

We are failing now! NOW is the time to create a safer, equitable AMERICA.

– **Marianne H., RPV, CA**

There is a better way!! Let's start building it now!

– **Tamar S., San Francisco, CA**

COLORADO

My son was on his way home and got a ride from his friend who had a truck. Two Sheriff's Deputies pulled the truck over two houses down from my house and said "the truck looked like a suspicious vehicle." When my son exited the vehicle, he said the deputies had their guns pointed at him as he explained that he lived two houses down and was getting a ride home.

The deputies both shot the tasers, hitting my son in the temple, cheek, forearm, and chest which caused a seizure. My son almost bit his tongue off during the brutal tasing and is now permanently disabled with epilepsy for the rest of his life.

The deputies charged him with attempting to disarm a peace officer because during his seizure he jerked the taser from his chest.



**The risk of being killed
while being approached or
stopped by law enforcement
in the community is**

**16X HIGHER FOR
INDIVIDUALS WITH
UNTREATED SERIOUS
MENTAL ILLNESS
THAN FOR OTHER
CIVILIANS**

SOURCE: <https://policeviolencereport.org/>

He was arrested and I was not allowed to visit my son for 2 weeks. When I finally was allowed to visit my son, he couldn't talk very well because his tongue was still swollen, he had bruising all over his head and face, and burn marks from the tasers. This happened simply because he got a ride home.

– **Duffi F., Pueblo, CO**

We are on this planet to help one another, to lift each other up, and to support one another so that we all can be strong and be better than we are.

– **Kayan E., Denver, CO**

Current policing makes us LESS safe.

– **Julie M., Westminster, CO**

Our American community is sickened by what happened to Tyre Nichols, and we support taking bold, courageous action to end the scourge of police violence against innocent black young men.

– Luana R., Boulder, CO

The People's Response Act must be passed to stop the criminal behavior of police officers.

– Marilyn B., Colorado Springs, CO

Let's get this right and protect our kids.

– Mary G., Fort Collins, CO

I was a psychiatric nurse for over 20 years and I know how important it is to have training on how to assist people suffering a mental health crisis.

– Aimee T., Manitou Springs, CO

CONNECTICUT

We are sick of fear, killings, tasing, gun-carrying cops who shoot before trying ANY other method. Where is their education? Or are there no qualifications & training that define who they are? We need legislators ready to listen & learn. This is essential.

– Sherry H., Killingworth, CT

DELAWARE

Stop Killing Black People!

– Dieter B., Oberhausen, DE

FLORIDA

My son was shot by police 12 times and they are trying to put him in prison for life. The police need to stop being so ready to fire the second a person moves. Many innocent people, including people who called 911 for help, have been shot and killed by police.

Many in mental health crisis have been killed because they didn't obey an order by police. But if you're having a mental crisis you're not thinking clearly and

**NATIVE AMERICANS
1.7X MORE LIKELY
TO BE KILLED
BY POLICE
THAN WHITE PEOPLE**

**LATINX PEOPLE
1.3X MORE LIKELY**

SOURCE:

<https://www.hrw.org/news/2022/06/21/why-more-police-funding-no-route-public-safety>

"Moms everywhere in this country are grieving the loss of children lost to violence, and all too often at the hands of law enforcement officers."

– Arlene R., Washington, DC

cops need to be trained to deal with these situations without the use of a firearm. They are trained to protect themselves and each other with deadly force. But last time I heard, we hired them to protect and serve the public, not each other. Stop police violence now!

– Judith S., Sebastian, FL

"We need to take some of the resources given to police departments for strong-arm tactics, and use those resources for other methods that have proven to be far more effective."

– Brett R., Coral Springs, FL

Florida could really use this help.

– Sue P., Arcadia, FL

Police actions here are beyond horrifying!

– Jan S., Clearwater, FL

It's egregious that people who call for help are killed by the police!

– Marlene S., Clearwater, FL

Congress, we need your help!!

– Brenda J., Hudson, FL

All people need to feel safe when there is an emergency.

– Sarah P., Naples, FL

This common sense and thoughtful approach is way overdue!

– Patricia V., Tarpon Springs, FL

Please pass the People's Response Act! Too many people of color have died at the hands of someone who was supposed to protect and serve. Cops should have to have their body cams on whenever they interact with anyone.

– Carol C., Green Cove Springs, FL

Counselors are needed in schools. I've worked with at-risk kids who, when experiencing a problem, are not directed to a mental health professional. There has to be an intermediary between nothing and a police force! Alternatives that support at-risk students are needed.

– Audrey A., Miami, FL

Please Congress do your jobs. We the people have spoken and voted. Do the right thing.

– Barbara T., Ocean Ridge, FL

It is very important the police don't arrest kids for not going to school.

– Brenda Lee S., Tallahassee, FL

GEORGIA

I am a disabled white woman that has been assaulted on several occasions. I'm scared of the police corruption here for myself, my children, and my community. I've been doing what I can to report and try and make change.

– Dana B., Acworth, GA

We are failing as a nation to keep people safe and need dramatic action now to fix the system. It is NOT public safety if it fails to protect ALL of the public. We cannot wait for yet another person to be killed, we need to make changes NOW.

– AB, Atlanta, GA

The brutality inherent in the policing system is a corrupting influence. Our citizens deserve better than "protect and serve" enforcement. Not the "obey or slay" mentality of the industrial policing this system was created out of! It's time for a systemic change!

– Jenna B., Brunswick, GA

This is long over due!! Congress must act now!!!

– Bridget H., Canon, GA

HAWAII

The People's Response Act provides the resources and assistance to scale up efforts to truly transform public safety in the United States. It would reframe how we think about and respond to crisis situations in this country with an approach that meets the demands and needs of our communities and this moment.

– **Andrew I., Lahaina, HI**

IDAHO

We have a serious mental health crisis in our society itself. It's time for us to consider real solutions of help and support versus policing them. We need to look at reimagining what public safety really is. I implore you to be brave, and to help us—not just police us.

– **Kelly H., Pocatello, ID**

ILLINOIS

In Chicago, a wrongful warrant was served on my address, my name was never on the warrant. It cost me my housing for a year and a half. No drugs were found in my unit except the ones that the police officer pulled out of his pocket. He tore up my apartment and the empty apartment upstairs. This was very life-altering for me, a single mother of two sons with no criminal record. I haven't spoke on this in many years.

– **Cherry H., Dolton, IL**

In 2014, I was unemployed, and on the edge of homelessness. I would regularly eat perfectly good food out of the dumpster behind a local restaurant. The police warned me not to, and about 2 weeks later, I again encountered the police at the same dumpster. The officers cuffed me to the dumpster, and one of them urinated on me while I was handcuffed.

Then they uncuffed me, and ordered me to "get in with the rest of the trash." As I climbed into the dumpster, one kicked me in the back, causing me to bang my head on the inside of the dumpster. Then



64% of killings by police in 2024 — 703 deaths — were traffic stops, police responses to mental health crises, or situations where the person was not reportedly threatening anyone with a gun.

**IN 2024, 154 PEOPLE
WERE KILLED AFTER POLICE
STOPPED THEM FOR A
TRAFFIC VIOLATION**

SOURCE: <https://policeviolencereport.org/>

they slammed the lid. One of the officers shouted "next time we won't be so nice!" before they left.

– **Matt G., Willow Springs, IL**

KENTUCKY

Please do the humane thing and pass the People's Response Act.

– **Rosanne K., Georgetown, KY**

MARYLAND

I was in an all white neighborhood and I was stopped by 3 police cars. It was a case of mistaken identity. Even though I wasn't resisting, one of the cops twisted my arm so hard, he almost broke it. Only by the grace of God, they got another call and left. I am a Black

"The People's Response Act is very important to me as someone who cares about the safety of others, particularly Black and Brown folks.

We must act urgently to prevent senseless pain by boldly reimagining our approach to public safety. Please be the champion that this legislation needs - people's lives are at stake."

– Elizabeth H., Medway, MA

woman and I had 5 cops on me. It's ridiculous the abuse Black people suffer at the hands of the police.

– Sonya G., Baltimore, MD

Please honor Tyre Nichols and all the others who have died as a result of police brutality by passing the People's Response Act.

– June K., Silver Spring, MD

MICHIGAN

As a 66-year-old white woman, I haven't experienced violence from the police but I have experienced harassment from the police in Whitehall, Michigan. Twice I was stopped by the police for trumped up reasons, putting my signal on too early and backing out of my driveway sloppily when there were no other cars on the road.

I was yelled at for eating my fast food, they made me get out of my car. If they treat me that badly, imagine if I was a young Black man. There needs to be major changes and I am horrified by the constant police violence I see on the news!

– Cathay O., Grand Haven, MI

I was issued a traffic ticket that was totally unjustified and spent a while discussing it with the cop. He didn't witness the accident and the info he got was from the other driver who hit me. After I figured it was a waste of time, I ended the discussion with "well, ok, see you in court" The cop's rapid reply was "Is that a threat?" while moving his hand to his gun. I said, "no" and backed away. I figure it matters that I'm a huge white cis male Army veteran and he was a 5'6" white male, and I at no time made any hostile moves.

– Anonymous, Westland, MI

Too many mentally ill people have been killed by police. Social workers and other mental health experts (like therapists with Mobile Crisis Units) need to respond to mental health emergencies with the public safety officers. This proposed legislation seems to address this issue and some of the other problems with our criminal justice system.

– Ann S., Fort Gratiot, MI

A new approach to policing is desperately needed. People with mental issues do not deserve to be gunned down by the police.

– Hugh G., Howell, MI

Our public security system is broken. It must be re-imagined & the People's Response Act does just that! Public safety is a matter of public health; broaden your minds & see the magnitude of the problem in our Country & PASS this Act!

– Kathy D., Traverse City, MI

The People's Response Act provides the resources and assistance to scale up these efforts and truly transform public safety.

– Paul K., Warren, MI

MINNESOTA

My former son-in-law was beaten by off-duty police in Chicago so badly his ankle and wrist were broken, but there was no recourse. We need accountability.

– Orick P., NorthField, MN

MISSISSIPPI

We need to rethink our approach to safety in this country. The People's Response Act is a great step!

– **Beejee D., Hattiesburg, MS**

Mississippians would truly benefit from the passage of the People's Response Act.

– **Michelle C., Jackson, MS**

MISSOURI

My brother has schizophrenia and he was pulled over for speeding and immediately upon stopping he was punched repeatedly through the window while still sitting in his car covering the interior with blood and resulting in him being seen at the emergency room after being brought there by a deputy.

The medical staff was shocked and raised questions as to how he was injured but it was quietly dismissed and disregarded. He is still afraid of police and believes they are out to get him.

– **James N., St. Louis, MO**

Public safety is indeed a matter of public health.

– **Linda S., Kirkwood, MO**

MONTANA

Please move us toward a more just society. The People's Response Act is a critical step.

– **Caroline P., Helena, MT**

"It seems obvious that our nation needs the People's Response Act."

– **Cindy W., Proctor, MT**

NEBRASKA

I was once stopped by a police officer in Omaha over a busted tail light. I went for my wallet to pull out my driver's license...only to hear him tell me: "I could've pulled out my gun." I lucked out that afternoon. I'm trying to prevent that from ever happening again, but if I ever get stopped again, what's going to happen?

– **James B., Omaha, NE**

**"All Americans
should feel SAFE!
Pass this NOW!"**

– **Harriet B., Las Vegas, NV**

NEW JERSEY

My daughter has been a victim of this, I thought we only had to worry about our young men. This has traumatized her and she may live with the emotional scars for her lifetime.

– **Melissa S., Carteret, NJ**

A Black man was helping me to dig out my car and we were putting snow in the street, a police officer stopped and started harassing the man helping me. You could tell the cop had an attitude by the way he spoke to the man. I got between the man and the cop,

I told the cop we were just trying to free up my tires and would put the snow back when we did that. It finally seemed to satisfy the cop who was White as I am. The man helping me had his little boy with him. I have no doubt the cop would have arrested the man if I hadn't intervene.

– **Patricia D., Jersey City, NJ**

**"The People's Response Act
is so important for small
communities to big cities!
We are in a crisis that this
legislation will address and
resolve. Please pass this
legislation now!"**

– Madeleine S., New York, NY

NEW YORK

I witnessed a frightening attack by New York City police against a small Black teenager who seemed to be running from the officers, in a subway station. At least twenty armed officers threw the young man to the ground and piled their entire bodies on top of him.

The adolescent was wearing a track suit and was slight in stature, clearly he had no sort of weapon and couldn't possibly pose a threat to the officers.

The officers were shouting wildly and had an air of intensity and lunacy about them. Other officers were yelling at me and other members of the public who were trying to get close to somehow help the young man.

– Carolyn S., Brooklyn, NY

My husband was driving and being harassed by some guys. He didn't know they were cops. He gave it back to them. He was pulled over and hand cuffed. He had a cell phone in his hand that they thought was a gun. They provoked him, shameful.

– Laurie A., Liverpool, NY

In the first grade we had an officer visit, for community support and, I guess, to make us trustful of police. I asked him about one of his tools on his belt. He told me it was called a claw and demonstrated its use by putting it on my wrist and turning the handle. What he did hurt very much, and the smile on his face while he was doing it, was hideous.

That happened 75 years ago, and it still makes me wary of every cop I meet, and I distrust every one until I am sure that he or she is one of the good ones.

– Fred S., Queenbury, NY

A family in our small city experienced death at the hands of police of a young man who did nothing to provoke this fatal attack. Police has never provided the family with any explanation and it is going on 2 years. The young man was Black, the officer white and the officer is still on the police force!

– Marianne M., New Rochelle, NY

One time in high school when I was 3 minutes late I was picked up and placed in a local police department van, which was the rule at that time. We were labeled as truants.

Each child's parent was called to alert the of the poor behavior regarding being late. Each child's train pass was confiscated and the costs of future transportation to school was left to the student and their family. Education is neither a punishment nor it is equal for all students. This practice continues to this day.

– Barbara G., New York., NY

**"This is a pattern – not
a few bad apples – as
they would have us
believe! END QUALIFIED
IMMUNITY NOW!"**

– Lori A., Spencerport, NY

My son was almost beaten to death and they refused to let his father, or his sister who worked at the hospital, see him. They snuck him out the back way to take to jail and the jail stopped giving him his prescribed medications.

– **Lila H., Schenectad, NY**

My only brother was killed in 2021 by a local police officer during a supposed domestic call. In less than four minutes from the police officers arriving to my brother's home he was shot and killed instantly.

It has been the hardest, agonizing pain my family has dealt with since he was taken from us that fatal day. I know he was murdered and not given a chance to live and to raise his youngest daughter who was only 4 years old at the time, and living the same home he was killed in, when these officers decided to take our beloved brother's life.

He was the kindest and a well-loved son, uncle, cousin, dad and friend. They took his life with no remorse or regret, not only ending his life but ending our life as we knew it. I cry every day because we still don't really know what happened that fatal morning.

– **Maribel M., Wingdale, NY**

Tell Congress to pass the People's Response Act now!

– **Raymond B., Yaphank, NY**

**"This has to stop. Everyday
someone does die due to
police brutality."**

– **Amy, Ottawa, OH**

OHIO

The People's Response Act is necessary, and I encourage you to vote for it!

– **Kathleen H., Kent, OH**

Protect the People! Pass needed legislation!

– **Constance M., Northfield, OH**

Stop the killing of human beings by the police! Pass the Peoples Response Act!

– **Brenda B., Painesville, OH**

OKLAHOMA

On December 21, 2013 our 18 year old son was experiencing a mental health episode, when badge-wearing individuals showed up. The end result was the murder of our son in our own home. The local DA ruled the death as justified.

Our son only required a mental health evaluation. Local law enforcement groups, the County, and the State have covered up the story. Our family was present and our story tells the truth of what happened here. There were 9 shots fired with 7 bullets striking our son. One of the 7 was to the back of his head. These acts of violence must stop.

– **Melissa G., Clinton, OK**

During her 8th grade year, my daughter walked back into school after a doctor's appointment to see a young male student being held face down on the ground by police officers. They were treating him like a criminal, instead of the boy he was.

She saw those police officers as cruel and violent, people to fear, not trust. She felt scared and helpless and stayed up worrying about why the officers were hurting him instead of helping him through whatever crisis he was enduring. She later found out that he'd been accused of stealing a wallet.

What if a counselor, social worker, and/or a psychiatrist could have been there to calm him, help ease whatever hardships he had at home, and get to the reasons that he stole (if he did)? Why didn't they try to prevent it by helping him rather than punishing him? There is no money in Oklahoma schools put towards helpers though. The money only goes to more police officers and more guns. I respect police officers, but they do not have training in counseling or social work.

– **Polly R., Tulsa, OK**

**"All the police violence
needs to stop. I'm afraid
for the children and others.
We're not even safe in our
own homes."**

– Sandra K., Bly, OR

OREGON

It's hard to share this story. I was a postpartum mom, nursing, working full-time, and pumping my breastmilk, in the middle of an unhealthy relationship.

I hadn't slept in days. I remember trying to sleep in the tub and being violently awakened by my ex pounding on the door with the baby, he couldn't get to stop crying. My ex was after custody and called the police, insisting I was insane. I kept saying I needed to sleep. I was tired and certainly not myself.

Six officers stormed into my house. They wouldn't even let me have a cup of tea and talk about the issue. There was however, time to wait almost an hour, with me strapped in the ambulance to take me to 'not my preferred hospital'.

– Kara, Portland, OR

PENNSYLVANIA

My son who suffered from mental illness was harassed by a local police officer. He reported it, as I asked him to do, but I believe the reason he recanted his complaint was because he was threatened.

Almost 6 months after he passed away an attorney reached out to me to talk about what had happened to my son. She was defending someone who was also being harassed by this officer.

– Sherri P., Philadelphia, PA

We do need a whole new understanding of community and what safety means within the scope of particular communities. The traditional models are just not working, if they ever did. It's time.

– Ruth S., Brookhaven, PA

Please. This is important. This is causing harm to communities and individuals in terms of policing but also in terms of our belief in America.

– Elizabeth A., Dillsburg, PA

With so many people being killed by police, it's time to take action.

– Joan K., Gibsonia, PA

Pass the People's Response Act NOW please!!!

– John N., Hanover, PA

We-The-People are demanding the People's Response Act be passed for the obvious reasons of improving the lives of those who can't or don't speak for themselves.

– Steve S., Hatboro, PA

More necessary than ever.

– Juliet W., Hershey, PA

With our incarceration rate, we should be the safest developed country. Yet, we are one of the least safe. We need to reform our policing system.

– Peggy W., Morrisville, PA

It is imperative that you pass the People's Response Act. I am a Nurse Practitioner who sees the devastating consequences of our current system. Act now for change!

– Ann P., Morrisville, PA

Time for Congress to step up and take action to keep us safe.

– Lynne W., Newtown, PA

This is simple really, do the right thing and pass the People's Response Act.

– Rachel E., Philadelphia, PA

This is an approach that can help to make our neighborhoods safer. Please vote for The People's Response Act.

– **Tom A., Philadelphia, PA**

No citizen should be murdered by police. They are here to protect and serve everyone!

– **Gail Y., Phoenixville, PA**

The People's Response Act is a step in the right direction.

– **Joyce B., Springfield, PA**

SOUTH CAROLINA

My brother had bipolar disease and was frequently hospitalized. One day we called the authorities to ask them to take him to the hospital and I watched them beat my brother with bats in our own driveway! To this day I am traumatized by that incident.

Not much has changed. Every time a mentally ill person is killed by the police I relive this incident. My brother was not Black. He was also extremely gentle and loving, so gentle I once saw a butterfly perch on his shoulder. The fact is that this is the type of behavior instilled in the cops for years.

– **Martine F., Charleston, SC**

"The majority want to create Community centered services and support - NOT what we have now which is authority based control."

– **W., Clinton, TN**

TEXAS

My daughter was harassed and intimidated by a police officer at her middle school for doing absolutely nothing. It was terrifying for her and the school administration did not take the complaint seriously.

– **Rainbow D., Austin, TX**

I have experienced police brutality for a traffic violation that I agreed to pay. When asking police officer why he was searching my car he became angry and I was charged with assault. After police violated my rights I took it to jury trial and lost.

A few years later I was pulled out of my car and placed in jail while waiting on a personal bonds officer to released from jail. I was not read my rights, just dragged out of my car and charged for nothing. I have lived with a assault charge for a lie and it's very depressing because it shows that all officers are not here to protect and serve all individuals.

– **Cassandra N., Dale, TX**

My brother, while at a gas station, was approached by a police officer saying that he fit the description of someone who had just committed a crime.

My brother politely pulled out his work badge and informed the police officer that he was just getting off of work and he only stopped there to get gas. The officer told him to go back to his car and that he couldn't get gas there.

The police officer's partner who was standing across the parking lot shot my brother in the back four times and said he thought he was running.

During the trial they both lied for each other on the stand. Black people get the worse end of the judicial system no matter how people want to ignore it or say it ain't true. Last year a police officer tried to sex traffic me. When I filed a lawsuit he even threatened my lawyer.

– **Cogeicmirtvu D., Houston, TX**

Nobody should lose their life when they need help.

– **S., Fort Worth, TX**

STOP POLICE VIOLENCE NOW.

– **R., Houston, TX**

Tell Congress to Pass the People's Response Act Now!

– **Barbara, Houston, TX**

I wholeheartedly support The People's Response Act. Congress must support it too. Black people should not have to die because of bad police policies and bad policemen.

– **Laurie, Irving, TX**

It is high time to change the way of policing. Please pass the People's Response Act.

– **Simone D., Pflugerville, TX**

VIRGINIA

My brother was the victim of police brutality. He was 5'5" and 115 lbs and suffering a psychotic break. My dad called 911 for help getting him to the hospital safely. My brother was outside with a knife. Five cops drew their guns on him and told him to drop the weapon. He tossed the knife on the ground and withdrew into the house.

They followed him. When they went to grab him, he threw a punch at one and then they all proceeded to beat him with their batons. They broke his nose and left a huge gash in his head. I think some ribs were also broken. He lost a lot of blood and nearly died.

He physically recovered but mentally suffered from PTSD. To cover their butts each cop took out 2 warrants against him and sat on the case for a year before dropping it. They also said they'd reopen it if we sued.

– **Nakasato, Falls Church, VA**

Our children deserve a present and a future. No Mother should have to worry if her child is going to make it back home from doing normal day activities.

– **Rosa, Virginia Beach, VA**

"Please stop police brutality. Police are supposed to PROTECT US, not intimidate us."

– **Barbara, Stuarts Draft, VA**

WASHINGTON

Sometimes I feel like I'm impacted by police violence almost every day, as the white mother of 3 Black men. If a police encounter is publicized close to the city or state where one of them lives, I rush to my computer or phone.

I have analyzed countless YouTube videos of the arrests and assaults/murders, and it is a way of life for me, regrettably. I wish I could stop, but as long as I live it will probably continue.

– **Lorie L., Des Moines, WA**

I first experienced police violence when my brother got beaten up by the police at 17. He was messing around in a junkyard, and the police found him. He was beaten up by the police.

A lawyer told us that although it was very wrong what happened to my brother, there was nothing that could be done about it because the police would prevail no matter what, especially because my brother had no witness.

– **Valerie K., Olympia, WA**

Upon driving home, my dad was pulled over. The officer without any warning or immediate threat, drew his gun on me pointing it at my head while demanding my dad's license and registration. I was 5 years old! At no point was I a threat to the cops life. That was my first but not last experience with police violence.

– **Jaylene P., Wenatchee, WA**

"I am afraid to call 911 for help for fear that the police will hurt or kill someone without cause, and I would never be able to live with myself if that were the case. Police need accountability, accountability for their peers, and the culture has got to be broken and made humane."

– Margaret M., Seattle, WA

Pass The Peoples' Response Act.

– Nancy, Everett, WA

As Willy Loman's widow said, "Attention must be paid!". The communities that are most policed, need the most support, the most jobs, the most education, the most healthcare. And what do we give them? Police. I'm sorry but the police are not up to this task, and in order to fund the things that matter to these communities, we must defund the police.

– Craig C., Longbranch, WA

Police reforms are woefully long overdue.

– Gena D., Mount Vernon, WA

Please support the People's Response Act!

– Sumayyah W., Seattle, WA

Police need to be held accountable for killing innocent humans of color!

– Annette S., Port Angeles, WA

These provisions must start at the federal level now. Enough is enough, fund and support a new vision of

safety for our country. So that everyone is treated in an equal and just way.

– Melissa P., Seattle, WA

End police violence.

– Bonnie R., Spokane, WA

I am sick and tired of seeing police act as judge, jury, and executioner when they arrive at a scene of an emergency call. In America, police should be peace officers and should increase safety of the public, not make it worse.

– E., Spokane, WA

The abuse inflicted on those not white is horrific & must stop! Police departments need big changes.

– Teresa M., Tacoma, WA

We need programs that are non-incarcerating, health-centered investments in public safety.

– Sandra G., Vancouver, WA

WISCONSIN

We have a serious mental health crisis in our society itself. It's time for us to consider real solutions of help and support versus policing them. We need to look at reimagining what public safety really is. I implore you to be brave, and to help us—not just police us.

– William K., Madison, WI

Please do not have police show up to domestic calls, mental health calls, and overdose calls. Those should only be addressed by social workers, health care professionals, and EMTs.

– Jamie N., Milwaukee, WI

I don't like calling the police because the outcome is too unpredictable.

– Tonisha H., Milwaukee, WI

TAMIR RICE

TRIGGER WARNING - GRAPHIC LANGUAGE

Just a few days before the Thanksgiving holiday in 2014, Tamir Rice, only 12 years old, was tragically killed by a police officer while playing with a toy gun in a Cleveland, Ohio, playground. Tamir was playing alone with a toy pellet gun when someone called 911 to report seeing a person playing with a real gun. Within seconds of arriving at the scene, two Cleveland police officers arrived at the park, drew their guns at Tamir, and shot at him. The police gave him no verbal warning and made zero attempts to first assess the situation before shooting the 12-year-old twice. Biases and racism are so deeply ingrained in our system that, beyond Tamir being shot and in need of medical help, he was still not even given medical attention until several minutes later. Was he not worth immediate medical attention?

Tamir Rice passed away from his injuries the following day.



His death is one of many devastating examples in which police violence in predominantly Black communities underscores a painful and long-standing issue that continues to tear families and communities apart. The officers' failure to evaluate the situation properly, their failure to act rapidly without any attempt to de-escalate or even try to understand the context of the 911 call, and their unjustified fear of a young Black boy causing them immediately to draw their guns at him all speak volumes. It highlights the need for comprehensive, inclusive, holistic, and health-centered approaches, as well as police practices and training, to address crises that reduce harm and truly keep our communities safe.

Tamir's life, and the lives of many others, have led to the distrust and fear that many people live with every day-- that they are not safe in their own homes, schools, churches, mosques, hospitals, and neighborhoods; that police officers are not people they can count on. The need for reform is urgent. Everyone deserves to feel safe where they live, every day, end of story. The People's Response Act offers a right step in that direction.

A CALL TO REIMAGINE SAFETY, TOGETHER

At MomsRising, we believe every child deserves to grow up in a community where safety means care, not punishment, where help comes in the form of a trusted mental health professional, a mentor, a nurse, or a neighbor, not an armed officer, where public safety is not measured by arrests or incarceration, but by well-being, opportunity, and thriving neighborhoods.

The stories and data shared throughout this book make one thing abundantly clear: real safety doesn't start with handcuffs; it begins with healing. With investments in mental health care, youth development, housing, violence interruption, and crisis response rooted in public health.

These programs are working. Across the country, families and communities are building new paths forward, demonstrating that safety, justice, and care are interconnected when we prioritize connection over control.

This is our invitation to you.

As legislators, city leaders, and changemakers, you have the power to stop the harm and start funding what works. You can shift resources away from systems that traumatize, towards programs that protect. You can co-create a future where every call for help is met with compassion and every child grows up with the support they need to thrive.

Let's build that future, BOLDLY and TOGETHER.

The time to reimagine community safety is now. Moms, caregivers, and families are ready. We need you to join us. Fund alternatives. Pass the legislation. Trust the community.

Let's rise, for safety, for justice, for care, and for each other.

THE CASE FOR POLICE FREE SCHOOLS

The physical, social, and emotional well-being of children in schools is crucial to their success and safety.

Yet, 1.7 million students are in schools with police but no counselors, and 10 million students are in schools with police. Fourteen million students are in schools with police but no counselor, nurse, psychologist, or social worker. Many states reported two to three times as many police officers in schools as social workers, and five states reported more police officers in schools than nurses. This is unacceptable.

Research consistently demonstrates that the presence of police in schools serves as an entry point to the school-to-prison pipeline and disproportionately harms Black, Indigenous, and Latinx students; students with disabilities; and marginalized students. Study after study shows that there are virtually no gains from having police in schools.

There are measurable ways to increase school safety that don't promote the school-to-prison pipeline and have been proven to be successful. These measures include restorative approaches, more mental health staff and counselors, social-emotional learning, and trauma-informed care in our schools. The presence of school-based mental health providers not only improves outcomes for students but also enhances overall school safety.

We must take steps to shift resources away from practices that harm and push kids out of school into what helps students thrive, keeps schools safe, and ends the criminalization of kids in schools.



**When police are
present in schools,
STUDENTS ARE 5X
MORE LIKELY TO
BE ARRESTED FOR
DISORDERLY
CONDUCT**

SOURCE: <https://steinhardt.nyu.edu/metrocenter/ejroc/ending-student-criminalization-and-school-prison-pipeline>



STORIES ABOUT THE NEED FOR POLICE FREE SCHOOLS

Possible alternatives to school-to-prison pipeline are many. One can include mental health (services). Once we start including therapists in schools and start rewiring how people think, these issues can be eliminated.

– **Christopher W., Knoxville, TN**

Shift from punitive discipline to supportive measures that focus on the emotional and well-being of the students.

Passing the Counselors Not Criminalization Act is crucial in creating safe environments where students can thrive academically, socially, and emotionally, reducing trauma and mental health issues. With proper support, students are more engaged, more likely to stay in school and graduate on time.

– **Alonda, Salem, OR**

When young people are being deported, due to the school-to-deportation pipeline. They spend a lot of time in detention centers, which are run by ICE or for-profit businesses. These are super toxic to our communities and go hand-in-hand with the prison industrial complex.

– **Catia, Las Vegas, NV**

I saw firsthand the experience of the school-to-prison pipeline when I moved to Los Alamos, New Mexico – a very rich, primarily wealthy, and white neighborhood. The school had an abundance of resources, and there was no policing in schools.

– **Flour, Las Vegas, NV**

My school-to-prison pipeline story started a very long time ago. It started in poverty, living in Cincinnati, Ohio.

But what really made a difference in our lives is when we had counselors and professionals who came in and helped identify the abuse that we were dealing with and helped us get the care, the group therapy, and the services that we needed.

We need more counselors and schools, not more police.

– **Shameca, Louisville, KY**

**1.7 MILLION
STUDENTS ARE IN
SCHOOLS WITH
POLICE BUT
NO COUNSELORS**

→ **17 percent of high
schools do not have a
school counselor**

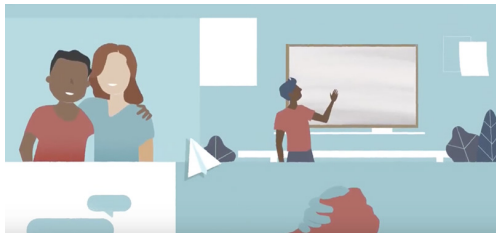
SOURCE: <https://www.nea.org/nea-today/all-news-articles/schools-need-more-counselors>

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

[Reimagining Student Safety: More Counselors and Less Cops in Schools](#)

[Saving Our Schools: Activating Parents in an Age of CRT-Backlash](#)

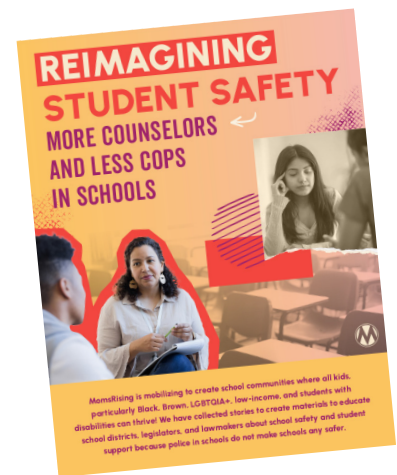
Video Links



[Dismantling the School to Prison Pipeline](#)

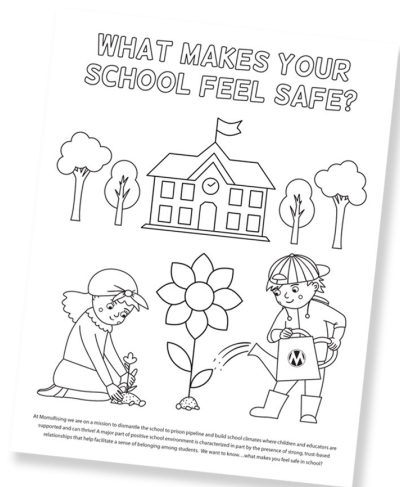


[A Tender Garden: Reimagining School Safety](#)



Coloring Pages

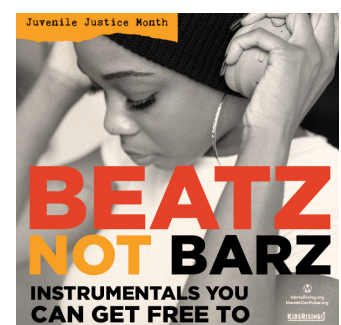
[What Makes Your School Feel Safe?](#)



[End the School-To-Prison Pipeline](#)

[What do you love about your school that gives you a sense of safety and belonging?](#)

[Beatz Not Barz Spotify Playlist](#)



Supporting Immigrant Families and Students

[Community Protection & Mutual Aid Toolkit.pdf](#)

[Herramientas de protección comunitaria y asistencia mutua.pdf](#)

[Defining Hostile Environments Doc.pdf](#)

[Resources And Mutual Aid.pdf](#)

[Recursos y apoyos de asistencia mutua.pdf](#)



[Supporting Immigrant Students and Families in Hostile School Environments](#)

SAY THEIR NAMES

Tamir Rice (2014)

Michael Brown (2014)

Eric Garner (2014)

John Crawford III (2014)

Sandra Bland (2015)

Freddie Gray (2015)

Walter Scott (2015)

Laquan McDonald (2014)

Philando Castile (2016)

Alton Sterling (2016)

Terence Crutcher (2016)

Charleena Lyles (2017)

Stephon Clark (2018)

Atatiana Jefferson (2019)

Botham Jean (2018)

Ahmaud Arbery (2020)

Breonna Taylor (2020)

George Floyd (2020)

Rayshard Brooks (2020)

Andre Hill (2020)

Adam Toledo (2021)

Ma'Khia Bryant (2021)

Daunte Wright (2021)

And too many more, taken too soon, whose families still await justice.

Law enforcement agencies and the government fail to provide accurate numbers on the number of lives taken at the hands of police. While there have been efforts by the government to document the number of police killings such as the USA National Vital Statistics System (NVSS) or a recent FBI program which has failed to deliver results (as of 2021), there is still no way to understand the scope of police violence.

**To learn about police violence and see a fuller list visit
www.mappingpoliceviolence.org**

MomsRising.org is an on-the-ground and online grassroots organization of more than a million people who are working to increase family economic security, stop discrimination against women and moms, and build a nation where businesses and families can thrive.

Established in 2006, MomsRising and its members are organizing and speaking out to improve public policy and to change the national dialogue on issues that are critically important to America's families, including criminal justice reform, immigration policy reform, and gun safety. MomsRising is working for paid family and medical leave, affordable, high quality childcare and early learning, and for an end to the wage and hiring discrimination which penalizes women — particularly moms and women of color — and so many others.

MomsRising advocates for access to healthy food for all kids, health care for all, earned sick days, and breastfeeding rights so that all children can have a healthy start.

MomsRising maintains a Spanish language website: www.MamásConPoder.org. Sign up online at www.MomsRising.org — and follow us on our blog, and on Twitter and Facebook.