

2025 Annual Report



**JUSTICE
POLICY
INSTITUTE**

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About JPI

Founded in 1997, the Justice Policy Institute (JPI) is a national nonprofit organization developing workable solutions to problems plaguing juvenile and criminal justice systems. Our research and analyses identify effective programs and policies. We disseminate our findings to the media, policymakers, and advocates and provide training and technical assistance to people working for justice reform.

We believe in a data-driven, community-centered, and collaborative approach to criminal legal reform. We ground our work in the belief that public safety comes from equity, opportunity, and community-based solutions—not from over-reliance on incarceration. By using data, centering impacted communities, and building broad coalitions, we challenge harmful narratives and advance policies that create lasting change.

Mission:

Justice Policy Institute is dedicated to reducing the use of incarceration and the justice system by promoting fair and effective policies.

Vision:

Justice Policy Institute envisions a society with safe, equitable and healthy communities just and effective solutions to social problems, and the use of incarceration only as a last resort.

Values:

-  Honesty
-  Equity
-  Compassion
-  Collaboration
-  Disruption

Our Approach



Drive Reform with Data

JPI conducts rigorous research and policy analysis to drive reform and counter punitive policies that harm communities. Through timely reports, issue briefs, and data visualizations, we equip advocates and policymakers with tools to challenge misinformation and promote evidence-based solutions. We track legislative developments and justice trends to ensure that reform stays rooted in facts—not fear. Our work connects research and advocacy, making complex data actionable to advance systemic change.



Center Impacted Voices

JPI puts those directly impacted by the criminal legal system at the center of change. We build teams that include system-impacted leaders and collaborate with incarcerated individuals, returning citizens, and grassroots groups to ensure firsthand experiences shape our policy work. Through strategic partnerships, public engagement, and leadership development, we elevate directly impacted voices and shift the narrative from punishment to accountability, opportunity, and healing.



Build Strategic Partnerships

JPI acts as a bridge among communities, researchers, policymakers, and advocates to foster collaboration and drive meaningful change. We convene coalitions, host strategic forums, and strengthen cross-sector partnerships to ensure reform efforts are aligned, inclusive, and impactful. Together, we're building a criminal legal system rooted in fairness, equity, and community investment.

Letter from Leadership

This marks the twenty-eighth – and final – year of the Justice Policy Institute (JPI).

I am deeply saddened by JPI's closing, personally and professionally. JPI has played a major role in my career, nearly bookending my professional experience. I first came to JPI over 20 years ago as the Research Director, and even as my career took me away, the organization and its work remained close to my heart. I was thrilled last year when I was able to return as the Executive Director to continue to advance JPI's work to promote just and effective policies that reduce the use of incarceration. And even as I grieve the end of this organization, and I am grateful for all JPI has accomplished in the criminal justice field over its nearly three decades of operations.

This year was an incredibly challenging one. As the year began, we anticipated the inauguration of a presidential administration that promised to be hostile to our most closely held values. What gradually materialized was, in many ways, even worse than we had feared. Time after time, the federal government, under orders of the president, disregarded the foundational laws of our democracy and subverted the most basic tenets of justice. Most notably, this government has rounded up and incarcerated tens of thousands of people – without ever granting them their constitutionally-protected right to prove their innocence in court.

At the same time, the administration announced dozens of policy changes (many of which were quickly retracted), slashed nearly 150,000 federal employees, and gutted grants and contracts, all of which wreaked havoc on our work in our headquarters of Washington, D.C. On multiple occasions, the administration and its sycophants also attempted to take over the city government by force, co-opting local police to support their agenda, overturning local policies, and stripping \$1 Billion from the city budget. In these moments, JPI stepped up, helping to ward off federal encroachment by marshalling our resources and our network in opposition.

In spite of all this, we remained focused on our primary mission, and saw our efforts rewarded. When the New York prison system fell into chaos due to two in-custody murders and a protracted correctional officer strike, JPI partnered with local organizations to publish a comprehensive policy blueprint in response to the crisis. JPI also continued its efforts to expand release mechanisms in Maryland, which resulted in two new laws reforming medical and geriatric parole and offering second look sentencing revision for those convicted as young adults. And in Virginia, JPI advocated for a bill to expand higher education access throughout the prison system, which made it all the way to the governor's desk before being vetoed.

This year, we won some, and we lost some. But we are looking to the future. We are confident that our Virginia partners will continue their advocacy to expand prison education, and we are optimistic that an even better bill may succeed during the next legislative session, after a new governor takes office. We are encouraged by the number of states taking up second look laws to reverse the devastating effects of decades of tough-on-crime policy. And we remain ever hopeful that future activists, advocates, and reformers will succeed where we have not, creating the society of justice, equality, and safety that we have dreamed of.

Justice doesn't end here. The fight continues – with JPI staff as they move on to new roles, with our partners and allied organizations, with our supporters and champions, and with future generations. In spite of opposition, failures, setbacks, and discouragements, we will keep moving forward, advancing the mission for as long as it takes.

Until there are no more prisons.

In Solidarity, with great hope,

Jasmine L. Tyler
Executive Director
Justice Policy Institute

2025 Highlights

In 2025, the Justice Policy Institute advanced its mission to create equitable, humane justice systems through bold advocacy, research, and public engagement.

From celebrating the passage of compassionate parole reform and a second look law in Maryland to exposing the culture of abuse in New York's prison system, JPI elevated critical issues through coalition building, storytelling, and policy leadership. Throughout the year, JPI led public education campaigns, published influential research and policy reports, and partnered with communities to challenge incarceration's root causes and break the cycles of crime. All the while, JPI continued to elevate the voices of those who have direct experience of the carceral system.

- **Reforming bail & pre-trial release** – In May, JPI published *Justice by Geography*, a research report on the use of electronic monitoring during pretrial release in Maryland, exposing the inequities of the current system. Later that summer, Keith Wallington testified against the extension of a D.C. law that denied pre-trial release and incarcerated residents who had not been convicted of any crime.
- **Expanding release mechanisms** – In April, JPI saw two of its long-term advocacy efforts in Maryland come to fruition. The governor signed two bills into law, one expanding opportunities for medical and geriatric parole, and the other allowing certain incarcerated people to appeal for sentence review and revision. In August, JPI released *Sentenced to Grow Old*, a report exposing the prison aging crisis and advocating for reform to expand release mechanisms for incarcerated older adults.
- **Ending prison abuse & the torture of solitary confinement** – JPI published *A Moment of Reckoning*, a report detailing the abuses endemic to the New York prison system and making recommendations to prevent violence and decrease the use of solitary confinement. JPI also submitted an amicus brief to the Supreme Court of South Carolina in the death row appeal of Mikal Mahdi, a man who had experienced long periods of solitary confinement as a teen and young adult.
- **Improving reentry outcomes by increasing prison education** – Throughout the year, JPI partnered with local organizations to advocate for HB 2158 in Virginia, a bill to expand access to postsecondary education throughout the prison system. In conjunction, JPI published *Unlocking Virginia's Workforce*, a report highlighting the severe worker shortage in the state and arguing for the financial and public safety benefits of providing higher education to incarcerated people.

- **Preventing Youth & Young Adults from being drawn in the criminal legal system** – JPI contributed to a report to the United Nations, detailing the inhumane treatment children are subjected to in the U.S. carceral system. Jasmine Tyler also testified in support of a Virginia bill to implement a restorative justice program in public schools, and Seaira Wainaina spoke to journalists against the imposition of youth curfew in D.C. JPI also co-sponsored a webinar on the use of corporal punishment in the public school system to educate the public on the dangers of the school to prison pipeline.
- **Educating justice practitioners and the general public** – In April, Jasmine spoke as a featured panelist to policymakers and students at the Janet Reno Forum held at Georgetown University to discuss racial disparities within youth justice. Keith Wallington was a featured panelist at a conference held by the Association of Paroling Authorities International, speaking about the public safety benefits of medical and geriatric parole and touting Maryland's recent passage of compassionate parole reform. Troy Burner spoke at an event discussing prison reform and abolition held at Busboys & Poets, and his story of his previous incarceration, release, and later exoneration was featured in D.C. News Now's Black History Month series.

2025 By the Numbers

4 RESEARCH REPORTS

Published original research reports on criminal justice issues across the country



23 MEDIA MENTIONS

Referenced, quoted, or interviewed in local and national journalism publications



12 TIMES TESTIFIED

Provided written or in-person testimony on criminal justice bills in various jurisdictions



1 U.N. REPORT

Contributed to a report to the United Nations on the treatment of children in the U.S. carceral system



5 COALITION LETTERS

Wrote and coordinated letters from a coalition of like-minded organizations to advocate for legislation



5 OP-EDS PUBLISHED

Placed opinion articles with local and national publications on current events



1 COURT APPEAL

Submitted an amicus brief to the South Carolina Supreme Court in support of a stay of execution



4 LEGISLATIVE WINS

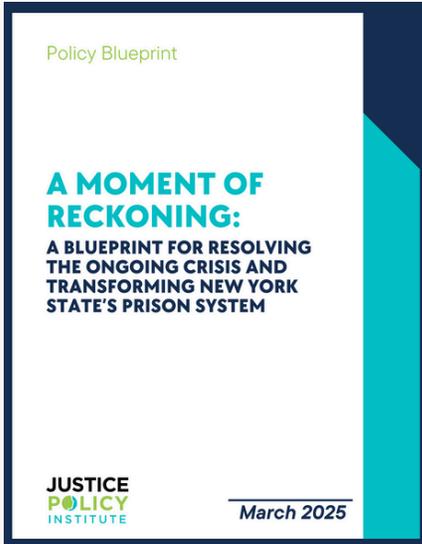
Advocated for two bills which were signed into law and defeated two other bills



Research & Publications

A Moment of Reckoning

This report was written in response to the deaths of Robert Brooks and Messiah Nantwi, who were beaten to death by New York correctional officers while in custody, and a 22-day illegal work strike that put prisons in lockdown, resulting in the deaths of nine incarcerated people. [A Moment of Reckoning: A Blueprint for Resolving the Ongoing Crisis and Transforming New York State's Prison System](#) unveils the abuse endemic to the New York prison system, and presents concrete steps to reduce the prison population through expanded release mechanisms and to implement proven violence-prevention strategies, enhancing conditions for both incarcerated individuals and staff. Drawing on successful models from New York and other jurisdictions, this blueprint establishes a framework for creating a safer, more just prison system that upholds dignity and accountability.



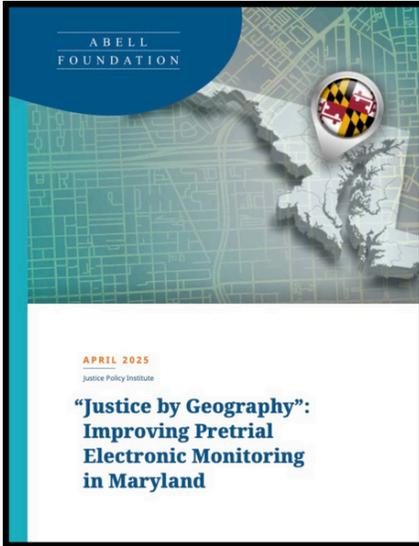
JPI also held a virtual press conference to announce the release of the report, moderated by Jasmine Tyler and featuring:

- U.S. Congresswoman Nydia M. Velázquez (D-NY)
- Stanley Bellamy of the RAPP Campaign
- Victor Pate, a #HALTsolitary organizer
- Thomas Gant of the Center for Community Alternatives



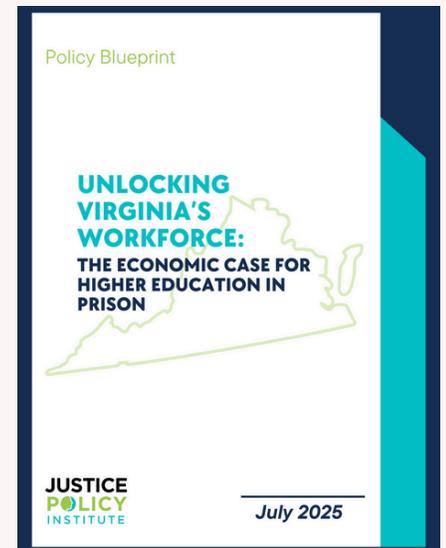
Justice by Geography

Across Maryland, the use of electronic monitoring (EM) as a pretrial supervision tool is on the rise, but its inconsistent use results in vastly different outcomes depending on where a person lives. In Justice by Geography: Improving Pretrial Electronic Monitoring in Maryland, JPI examines how EM is used, how it impacts on individuals, and what can be done to ensure fairness and effectiveness in pretrial justice. Despite the growth in EM use, research shows it does not reliably reduce failure to appear or recidivism rates, while imposing significant burdens — particularly on low-income and Black and Brown communities. Through interviews with pretrial practitioners, legal experts, and people with lived experience, this report highlights the lack of statewide standards, the financial and personal costs of EM, and recommendations to create a more equitable system. This research was made possible by a grant from the Abell foundation.



Unlocking Virginia's Workforce

As Virginia faces a critical labor shortage and rising incarceration costs, the state also sits on an untapped resource: thousands of incarcerated individuals eligible for federal Pell Grants who are eager to learn, work, and contribute to their communities. Unlocking Virginia's Workforce: The Economic Case for Higher Education in Prison argues for expanded access to higher education in Virginia's prisons and offers a comprehensive policy blueprint for reform. This report outlines the high cost of inaction, using data to show how postsecondary education reduces recidivism and can help meet the state's urgent workforce needs. It highlights policy gaps and systemic barriers – from outdated technology infrastructure to racial, gender, and geographic inequities – and offers concrete recommendations to reduce public spending, grow the talent pipeline, and build a safer Commonwealth.



To mark the release, JPI held a virtual press conference moderated by Jasmine Tyler and featuring:

- Kimberley Haven, a Higher Education Policy Advocate and Strategist
- Kenneth Hunger, a Higher Education in Prison Organizer for the Virginia Consensus for Higher Education in Prisons

White Paper

**SENTENCED TO GROW OLD:
HOW LONG-TERM INCARCERATION IS
FUELING A PRISON AGING CRISIS IN
ILLINOIS, IOWA, AND TEXAS**

JUSTICE
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August 2025

Sentenced to Grow Old

The U.S. prison population is rapidly aging. By one estimate, one-third of all incarcerated people will be over the age of 50 by 2030. Decades of extreme sentencing have created a crisis: a growing population of older adults behind bars with limited mobility and severe medical needs, but few prospects for release, even though they are unlikely to reoffend. In Sentenced to Grow Old: How Long-Term Incarceration is Fueling a Prison Aging Crisis in Illinois, Iowa, and Texas, JPI examines the data from these three states to reveal the financial and human cost of extreme sentences and points to proven solutions including parole reform, compassionate release, and second look laws. By addressing aging in prison, states can alleviate their financial obligations, provide better healthcare for their citizens, and maintain public safety.

NEW YORK
Amsterdam News

3/27/25

Blueprint for resolving NYS prison crisis
draws political support

“We just cannot warehouse this volume of people. It's not safe and it's unnecessary.”

~Jasmine Tyler

**VIRGINIA
SCOPE**

2/25/25

Bipartisan bill aims to improve prison
education, reduce recidivism

“If we are able to increase access to education, then we can equip folks for jobs that are in high demand, and that require strong skills, while making the community safer.”

~Jasmine Tyler

FOX 5 NEWS

5/5/25

Report points to flaws in the electronic
monitoring system in Maryland

“All the counties in Maryland are doing it differently, and that is causing the biggest confusion and challenges for individuals. What all of the JPI reports have shown in Maryland, is that there are some real inequalities that we see in the application, in the access for electronic monitoring.”

~Jasmine Tyler

Advocacy & Organizing

Advancing Geriatric & Medical Parole Reform

JPI advocated for Maryland Senate Bill 181, which expands medical and geriatric parole and reforms the parole process. Shekhinah Braveheart met with legislators in the Maryland General Assembly in support of the bill, organized advocacy efforts with local partners, and testified on behalf of the bill. Jasmine Tyler submitted written testimony supporting the bill, and wrote two op-eds in its favor in the Baltimore Sun and Governing magazine. Shekhinah Braveheart had an op-ed published in Maryland Matters. The Maryland General Assembly passed the bill, and on April 22nd, Governor Wes Moore signed the bill into law. Shekhinah Braveheart attended the bill signing, and later, Keith Wallington served as a panel speaker at a conference for the Association of Paroling Authorities International, touting the benefits of medical and geriatric parole.



Maryland Provides Model for Handling an Aging, Ailing Prison Population

☘ Taxpayer dollars are spent to confine individuals who are often bedridden, nonverbal or dependent on round-the-clock care. There's no public safety justification for this to continue. It's also fiscal waste at its worst.

☘
~Jasmine Tyler



MARYLAND MATTERS 12/26/24

Why Maryland needs geriatric and medical parole reform

☘ Donald Brown suffered a stroke and dementia so severe he could not recall why he was incarcerated, followed by congestive heart and kidney failure. Wheelchair-bound and wholly dependent on others, Mr. Brown nevertheless saw his initial petition for medical parole denied. Although the decision was later reversed, he passed away just four days after his release.

☘
~ Shekhinah Braveheart

Advocating for Second Look Legislation

JPI advocated for Maryland House Bill 853, or The Maryland Second Look Act, which allows individuals who were convicted before age 25 and have served 20 years to petition for a sentencing review and reduction. Shekhinah Braveheart met with legislators in the Maryland General Assembly in support of the bill, and organized advocacy efforts with area partners. Troy Burner testified in support of the bill, sharing his powerful story of being wrongfully convicted at 19 and serving 24 years before gaining release under a similar law in D.C. The Maryland General Assembly passed the bill, and on April 22nd, Governor Wes Moore signed the bill into law. Shekhinah Braveheart attended the bill signing, and is pictured standing behind the governor. Advocates from Maryland nonprofits credited JPI's advocacy on geriatric & medical parole reform and second look as instrumental to the passage of these laws at a public event hosted by the Maryland Office of the Public Defender.

COMPARING SECOND LOOK & GERIATRIC-MEDICAL PAROLE

Understanding the differences between Second Look and Geriatric Medical Parole is crucial for evaluating how each policy addresses specific populations and legal goals.

KEY DIFFERENCES

Second Look	Geriatric-Medical Parole
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Second Look is an adversarial judicial review of sentences in which individuals generally have a right to an attorney, the ability to call witnesses, and the ability to present evidence. The Second Look Act creates a right to petition the court for a sentence modification for anyone incarcerated and serves a specified period of incarceration (20 years). Currently, judges may only hold a motion for reconsideration of a sentence for 5 years from the sentencing date before issuing a decision. This limitation has prevented many long-sentenced individuals from asking the court to reconsider their sentence after a lengthy period of demonstrated rehabilitation. There are no other mechanisms in Maryland law that allow an individual a way back into court for judicial sentence review based on demonstrated rehabilitation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parole is a non-adversarial administrative process where individuals are primarily unrepresented and cannot call witnesses or present evidence. Medical parole is a release mechanism only for individuals who become so sick or debilitated that they can show their illness renders them unable to pose a threat to public safety. The Maryland General Assembly has already determined as a matter of policy and law that Maryland law should provide a release mechanism for incarcerated individuals who are sick and elderly. The Geriatric-Medical Parole legislation builds on that commitment by ensuring the statutes function as the Assembly intended.



Promoting Higher Education in Prisons

In Virginia, JPI advocated for House Bill 2158, which would expand access to postsecondary education throughout the prison system. Jasmine Tyler joined with partners from the Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy to meet with key elected officials in January, and testified before the education subcommittee. JPI coordinated advocacy efforts with partners and created a factsheet on higher education in prison to share with legislators. Jasmine Tyler also published an op-ed about the bill in the *Virginian-Pilot* and was quoted in both the *Virginia Scope* and the *Henrico Citizen*. While the bill quickly passed out of the House, it was heavily amended by the Senate and was eventually vetoed by Governor Youngkin. Even so, JPI published *Unlocking Virginia's Workforce* after the legislation, to encourage advocates to resume their efforts in the next legislative session.

JPI also worked to advance higher education in prisons outside of Virginia. JPI cosponsored the first ever HBCU conference on higher education in prison at Bowie State University in Maryland. JPI also attended the National Conference on Higher Education in Prison held in New Orleans, and the Prison Education Program convening held by the National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators.

Unlocking Potential: Why Virginia Must Invest in Higher Education in Prisons

Expanding higher education in Virginia's prisons isn't just about justice—it's a powerful investment in safer communities, economic growth, and long-term savings for taxpayers. The time to act is now.

Why is Higher Education in Prison Important?

Higher education in prison serves as a transformative tool for incarcerated individuals, providing opportunities for growth and can drastically improve reentry outcomes.

Significant Cost Savings: Education in prison is a sound financial investment that reduces long-term incarceration costs. It costs an average of \$64,000 per year to incarcerate one individual in Virginia. By expanding access to higher education and reducing recidivism, Virginia can lower incarceration costs and direct resources toward community investments. National research estimates that expanding postsecondary education in prisons could save **over \$365 million** annually in prison-related costs—a savings Virginia could share by growing its prison education programs.

Addressing Racial and Economic Disparities: Virginia's prison population is composed of 43 percent Black individuals, despite Black residents making up only 20 percent of the state's overall population. Expanding higher education in prisons is a critical step toward reducing longstanding racial and economic inequities in the legal system. Individuals from marginalized communities, who are disproportionately impacted by incarceration, benefit from the pathways to upward mobility that education provides.

Breaking the Cycle of Intergenerational Incarceration: College programs in prison have a profound ripple effect that extends beyond individual students. Education offers a foundation for positive change, improving family dynamics and providing children with a model of resilience and success, reducing the likelihood of future justice involvement.

The research on the impact of prison education programs highlights the following key benefits:

Hope as a Pathway to Progress: Prison educational programming fosters a sense of purpose and builds hope by offering people the tools to envision and work toward a better future. The opportunity to pursue higher education empowers incarcerated individuals to redefine their identities and is a powerful incentive for positive behavior, reinforcing personal growth and increasing the likelihood of successful reentry into society.



Protecting D.C. from Federal Overreach

Under the second Trump administration, the District of Columbia faced significant government incursion into local governance. In March, House Republicans passed a continuing resolution that retroactively slashed the D.C. government budget by \$1 billion dollars halfway through the fiscal year. JPI rallied to stop this legislation by orchestrating a media blitz, meeting with Congresspeople, and writing letters in opposition, signed by a coalition of over 140 organizations. Although the measure ultimately passed, the Senate also unanimously passed the D.C. Local Funds Act to restore this funding, due in large part to the advocacy of JPI and others. JPI also organized a coalition letter to the Mayor, encouraging her to leverage all methods to restore D.C.'s budget.

In addition, JPI spoke out against Trump's Executive Order "Making the District of Columbia Safe and Beautiful," which proposed to deploy federal law enforcement in the city and to clear away encampments of unhoused people. JPI composed a letter to the mayor, urging her to withstand any pressure to federalize D.C. police, and Keith Wallington spoke to The GW Hatchet about true solutions to the problem of homelessness.

Championing Youth & Emerging Adult Justice

JPI engaged in many efforts to advance youth and young adult justice. In April, Jasmine Tyler spoke at Georgetown University to discuss race and the juvenile justice system. JPI cosponsored a webinar discussing corporal punishment in recognition of the international day to end corporal punishment, and Jasmine Tyler testified in support of a Virginia bill that would establish a restorative justice pilot program in public schools—a necessary step to dismantling the school to prison pipeline. Seaira Wainaina spoke out against efforts to criminalize children in D.C., writing a blog to recontextualize a *Washington Post* article linking truancy and youth crime, and condemning the District's imposition of youth curfew. NPR also cited JPI's previous research, highlighting the reality that many young people are held in juvenile detention even though that time does not count towards their sentence.

Funding the role of Director of Emerging Adult Services

Who are emerging adults (ages 18-24)?

- Between 2021 and 2025, the number of emerging adults facing homelessness in DC grew by 30%, increasing vulnerability and system involvement.*
- 90% of system-involved young people in DC require special education services, underscoring the need for tailored educational supports.*
- Research shows that increasing access to education and workforce development during this critical state of life significantly reduces justice system involvement and promotes long-term stability.*

Category	Percent
DC Population	~10%
Arrests	~15%
Incarceration	~15%

Sources: DC Health Matters; DC JSAT

The Director of Emerging Adult Services² is responsible for:

- Developing a comprehensive strategic plan to meet the unique needs of emerging adults and assess its implementation.
- Developing and publishing publicly accessible data on the total number of emerging adults, the services and programming used by emerging adults, and the outcomes of the services and programming.
- Reporting on the state of emerging adults in the District and the challenges that they are experiencing.
- Planning to involve emerging adults in community decision-making, grow alternatives to incarceration, and foster collaboration among government agencies, community-based organizations, and families.

Why this investment matters?

- Fulfills the law:** Funding the Director of Emerging Adult Services ensures full implementation of the 2024 statute (24-906.03) and honors the District's commitment to justice reform.
- Strengthens public safety:** A dedicated Director will drive coordinated, age-appropriate responses proven to reduce system involvement and improve long-term community safety.
- Leverages leadership:** The District has led nationally on emerging adult justice; this investment secures and extends that leadership.
- Delivers high impact at low cost:** For a modest investment, the Director will help the District better understand this population, improve interagency coordination, and guide smarter use of public resources.

In addition, JPI contributed to a report on "The Inhumane Treatment of Children in the U.S. Criminal Justice System" to the Expert Mechanism to Advance Racial Justice and Equality in Law Enforcement (EMLER), an investigative body of the United Nations Human Rights Council.

JPI also advocated for emerging adults. Keith Wallington testified before the D.C. Council, urging them to provide funding to create the Office of Emerging Adult Services. JPI also created a factsheet on Emerging Adult Services, highlighting that the office had already been created by law, but not in practice due to inadequate funding. JPI also wrote an amicus brief to support the appeal of Mikal Mahdi, a man who experienced significant psychological torment through prolonged solitary confinement during his teens and early twenties.

Opposing Tough-on-Crime Policies

Throughout the year, JPI engaged in efforts to oppose tough-on-crime policies. In February, JPI coordinated an email campaign to oppose a proposed delay to implementation of Second Chance Amendment Act, and as a result of JPI's efforts, implementation was not delayed. Keith Wallington testified against PEACE D.C. legislation which extended the use of incarceration during the pretrial period. Paul Ashton testified before the D.C. Council to urge for funding for the Criminal Code Reform Commission, an advisory body that informs legislators about needed reforms to make criminal statutes more just and functional. Shekhinah Braveheart organized and coordinated partners to testify in opposition to Maryland's Senate Bill 604, a bill that would increase penalties for drug distribution that resulted in death. JPI also co-authored and placed an op-ed by partner Toni Torsch on the harms of this bill. In part through JPI's efforts, the bill was defeated. JPI also advocated in opposition to an expensive new jail build in Baltimore and in support of a bill to establish a racial disparity task force to examine racial inequities within the Maryland criminal legal system.



The GW Hatchet

3/3/25

District advocates say Trump's DC oversight proposals will not mitigate unhoused encampments, crime

“We've tried to arrest our way to public safety for 100 years now, but it hasn't worked.”

~ Keith Wallington



3/11/25

Hands off D.C.; the GOP's Power Grab is a Warning for Us all

Author: Jasmine L. Tyler

DC NEWS NOW

3/14/25

DC officials, advocates make last-ditch effort to prevent the stopgap spending bill from Senate approval

“The message to DC is clear: ‘you don't get a chance to govern yourself’ despite the fact we've had home rule status for five decades. This is part of a package approach to undermining DC sovereignty.”

~ Jasmine L. Tyler

The Washington Post

8/7/25

Democracy Dies in Darkness

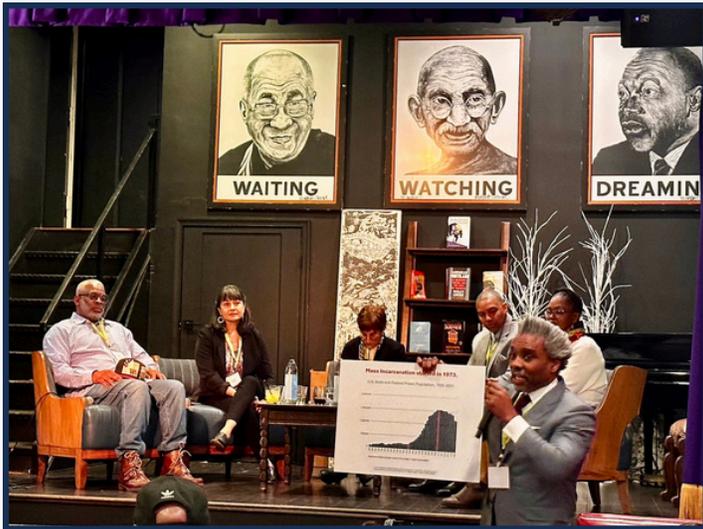
Pirro takes aim at D.C.'s crime laws, calls them 'absurd'

“The long moniker has been that the U.S. incarcerates the most people in the world, so why aren't we the safest nation in the world? You cannot incarcerate and arrest your way to safer communities.”

~ Paul Ashton

Public Education & Media

This year, JPI garnered 23 media mentions including references, quotes, and interviews in over 15 public media outlets. In addition, JPI wrote and placed five op-eds in several publications and independently published nine blogs to educate the public about JPI's work and issues in the criminal legal system.

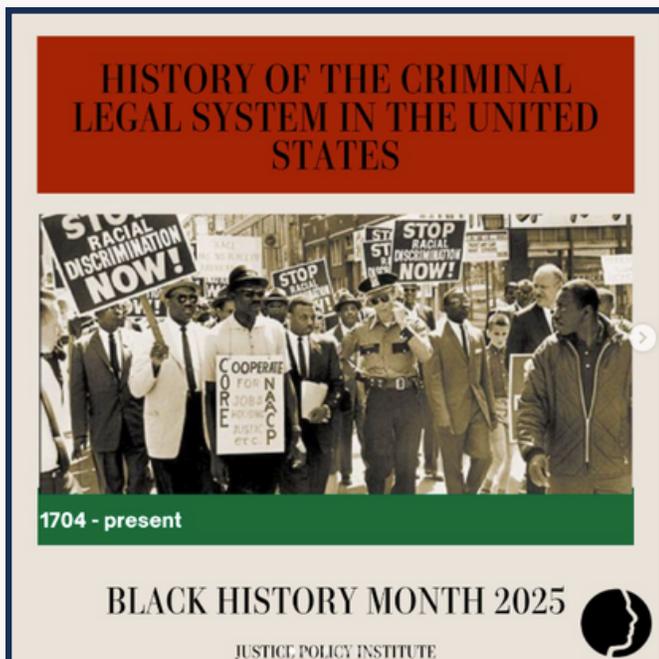


Troy Burner on Reform vs. Abolition

In January, Troy Burner joined a powerful panel discussion at Busboys and Poets alongside Vincent Delano Smith, who was wrongly incarcerated for three years; Premal Dharia, the Executive Director of the Institute to End Mass Incarceration; and Jamila Hodge, the Executive Director of Equal Justice USA. Moderated by Georgetown Law Professor Abbe Smith, the discussion explored solutions to America's mass incarceration crisis, tackling the urgent question: Reform vs. Abolition?

Troy Burner featured for Black History Month on D.C. News Now

In February, Troy Burner told his story to D.C. News Now for a featured segment for Black History Month. Troy was wrongfully incarcerated for 24 years, released through the Incarceration Reduction Amendment Act, and later exonerated.



Black History Month Instagram Carousel

To commemorate Black History month, JPI released an infographic series on Instagram on the policing of Black Americans and the history of the criminal legal system in the United States.

Paul Ashton joins “On the Count” radio program

Paul Ashton spoke with Jerome Wright, Andre Ward, and Jamel Bellamy on "On the Count," a program from WBAI 99.5 FM in New York City. They discussed New York’s prison crisis in the wake of the three-week strike and the deaths of Robert Brooks and Messiah Nantwi, and JPI’s policy blueprint A Moment of Reckoning which calls on New York lawmakers to enact policies to address these prison abuses.



Jasmine Tyler at the Janet Reno forum

Jasmine Tyler was a featured speaker at the Janet Reno Forum organized by the Center for Youth Justice (CYJ) at the McCourt School of Public Policy of Georgetown University. Jasmine joined Kristin N. Henning, the Director of the Juvenile Justice Clinic at the Georgetown University Law Center and dr. christian h. bijoux, the Deputy Director of Community Enhancement and Development at CYJ, to discuss racial inequities within the youth legal system.



JPI team guest lectures at McCourt

In June, the JPI team served as guest lecturers during a course on Race and U.S. Criminal Justice at Georgetown University's McCourt School of Public Policy during their summer session. Keith Wallington and Shekhinah Braveheart discussed JPI's work on parole and release reforms in Maryland, while Paul Ashton, Seaira Wainaina and Troy Burner led a session on emerging adult justice.

Board of Directors



Katharine Huffman, Board Chair
Principal, The Raben Group
Executive Director, The Square One Project



Kanya Bennett
Managing Director of Government
Affairs, The Leadership Conference on
Civil and Human Rights



Marcus Bullock
Founder and CEO, Flikshop



Albert Gore, III
Executive Director, Zero Emission
Transportation Association



Tyler Lewis
Managing Director of
Communications, Third Sector



Angela Modrick, Treasurer
Financial Controller, American
Bird Conservancy



Jerónimo Saldaña
Virtual Events Director,
OnPoint Studios



Michael J. Satin
Member, Miller & Chevalier
Chartered



Ebony Sparkes
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