

Dignity in Schools Campaign – Days at the Capitol



Senate Briefing on Preventing School Pushout

On November 21, 2013, educators, parents, and students from DSC held a congressional briefing to examine the positive steps communities across the country have taken to stop school pushout practices.

The congressional briefing was sponsored by Senator Durbin (D-IL) and Senator Murphy (D-Conn.). At the hearing Senator Murphy highlighted the need to develop and create a more positive school culture and the need to teach and reward students when they do well and not focus so heavily on punishing students.

Ramiyah Robinson, a student from Wake County, North Carolina with [NC Heat](#), gave a student's perspective of why school pushout makes students feel isolated and not supported in school. She served as a peer mediator at her school and through this process noted that it has been a successful tool in improving student engagement and also improving academic outcomes in schools.

Rosalva Nava from [COFI/POWER-PAC](#) and Jared Roebuck from [Teachers Unite](#) spoke of their experiences with integrating Restorative Peace Circles and Justice Panels to bring students, parents, teachers, and administrators together to mediate conversations that resolve conflict and heal harm in order to create safer schools while still holding students accountable for misbehavior. Rosalva is a Peace Facilitator at Wells High School in Chicago and Jared Roebuck is the co-founder and former Dean at Lyons Community School in Brooklyn, NY.