

# YOUTH JUSTICE RALLY

Thursday, Feb 23 at 3-5 PM

White Plains

Adult Community Center

65 Mitchell Place

RSVP to [bit.ly/justice\\_rally](https://bit.ly/justice_rally)

PRESENTED  
FREE OF CHARGE  
BY

WESTCHESTER  
CHILDREN'S  
ASSOCIATION

Children's Champions Since 1914

YOUTHShelter  
www.yshw.org  
PROGRAM OF WESTCHESTER

## YOUTH SPEAKERS will include

- Mount Vernon's Emerging Adult Court
- Youth Shelter of Westchester
- Opportunity Youth Part in New Rochelle
- and more!

LET'S MAKE  
SOME NOISE!

## THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS

YOUTH SHELTER OF WESTCHESTER

CHILDREN'S DEFENSE FUND OF NEW YORK

YOUTH REPRESENT

Questions? Email [klee@wca4kids.org](mailto:klee@wca4kids.org)





The purpose of the **YOUTH JUSTICE RALLY on FEBRUARY 23<sup>rd</sup>** is to provide information and education to youth, young adults and their allies about four bills currently pending in the New York State legislature. If passed, each bill would be a significant step toward disrupting the school-to-prison pipeline and reducing the impact of the criminal legal system on young people.

The four pending bills are: The Solutions Not Suspensions Bill, The Youth Justice & Opportunities Act, The Right 2 Remain Silent Youth Interrogation Bill, and The Clean Slate Act

Co-sponsors of the event include [Youth Shelter Program of Westchester](#), a one-of-a-kind organization in New York state providing residential and community-based alternatives to incarceration, [Youth Represent](#) which offers support to justice-involved youth through legal services and reentry advocacy, and [Children Defense Fund New York](#), a multi-issue children's advocacy organization.

**People of all ages are invited to attend and learn more about the important legislation, the process of enacting them into legislation and what can be done to support each one. Have your voice heard by those who will vote on the bills.** The event will feature presentations, music by DJ Jericko. Youth speakers will include representatives from Mount Vernon's Emerging Adult Court, Youth Shelter Program of Westchester, and Opportunity Youth Part in New Rochelle.

**CLICK HERE** or VISIT [bit.ly/justice\\_rally](https://bit.ly/justice_rally) TO RSVP In RSVPing, you help [Westchester Children's Association \(WCA\)](#) and our partners anticipate the number of people planning to attend and makes it easy to disseminate further information about these issues. WCA does not share contact information. Ever.

See below for more information about the four pending bills:

**The Solutions Not Suspensions Bill ([S1040 Jackson](#))** – This would establish that suspensions are the last resort to student misbehavior in schools, never the first. Instead, it promotes methods that are designed to hold students accountable while helping them learn from their mistakes. In New York, students lose hundreds of thousands of days in the classroom each year because of suspensions, often for normal youthful behavior. These punishments disproportionately impact Black and Latinx students, people with disabilities, and LGBTQ youth. Importantly, this bill would allow New York to take a big step away from the biased policies of the past.

**The Youth Justice & Opportunities Act ([Myrie S3426](#) / [O'Donnell A4238](#))** – This would expand alternatives to incarceration and immediate record sealing for young people up to age 25, allowing young people who have been arrested and charged as adults to move forward with their lives and pursue housing, employment, education, and other goals without the barrier of a harsh adult prison sentence and criminal record.

**The Right 2 Remain Silent Youth Interrogation Bill ([Bailey S1099](#) / [Joyner A1963](#))** – This would require that a youth first consult with legal counsel before any police questioning can take place. Current data shows that 90% of youth waive their Miranda Rights. Children lack the capacity to fully appreciate the meaning and significance of the right to remain silent, and to understand the repercussions of waiving that right. Add to that the stress and tension inherent in an interrogation, and the prospect of an intelligent and voluntary waiver to the right to remain silent becomes a myth.

**The Clean Slate Act ([S211 Myrie](#) / [A1029 Cruz](#))** – This will help address the systemic barriers to jobs, housing and education posed by old conviction records. Clean Slate is crucial to address intergenerational poverty. Nationally, nearly 50% of children in poverty have at least one parent with a conviction record, and children who grow up in poverty are far more likely to remain living in poverty throughout their lives. By lifting barriers to life essentials, including jobs and housing, Clean Slate will allow New Yorkers to support themselves and their families and break the cycle of poverty for millions of children.