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Gwinnett STOPP Joins the Education Civil Rights Alliance to Fight Back Against Civil Rights Violations Threatening Students

In the face of increasing threats to student civil rights throughout the nation, Gwinnett STOPP has joined with more than two dozen leading education and civil rights groups to launch the Education Civil Rights Alliance (ECR Alliance).

Schools should serve, educate, empower and be safe for all students, yet all across America today, far too many students face bullying and other barriers to education based on their race, religion, national origin, gender identity, disability, first language, or sexual orientation. Immigrant children continue to be illegally denied the right to enroll in school. Increasingly divisive and hateful rhetoric and growing anti-Muslim and White nationalist sentiment only serve to exacerbate the threats to already marginalized vulnerable students.

"The Alliance's work strategically aligns with the mission of Gwinnett STOPP's in serving the multitude of students who are continually disenfranchised and disparately disciplined by a district and school-based administration that is largely non-reflective of the culture of the most vulnerable students and families who attend Gwinnett County schools," said Dana Smith, Gwinnett STOPP board co-chair. "Gwinnett STOPP is excited to join the Education Civil Rights Alliance in this important work."

The ECR Alliance will ensure the civil rights of marginalized students remain protected by providing resources to help parents, educators, school districts, and advocates protect students' civil rights, supporting enforcement actions at the state and local level when schools districts and states fail to do so, working to raise public awareness of these challenges facing students, and serving as a deterrent to discriminatory and illegal behavior.

This alliance includes powerful community groups, experienced educators, the nation's largest teachers unions, accomplished legal organizations, influential national associations, civil rights organizations, and government agencies committed to ensuring that schools serve, educate, empower and are safe for all students. Members of the ECR Alliance have extensive experience in, and a deep commitment to, protecting students' civil rights.

Gwinnett STOPP is a grassroots parent-led, community-centered organization in Gwinnett County. The vision of Gwinnett STOPP is to lead a parent-driven, community-centered approach to identifying and dismantling the school to prison pipeline in Gwinnett County through parent/community education, district monitoring and accountability, and recommending national best practices. Our local and statewide partner organizations include Atlanta Community Engagement Network, Interfaith Children's Movement, ACLU of Georgia, and JUSTGeorgia coalition as well as enjoy the support of several others. Gwinnett STOPP is an active member of the Dignity in Schools Campaign (DSC) and the Praxis Project Transformative School Network.

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