



Protecting Black Youth. Protecting Access to Care.



1. LONGSTANDING RACIAL INEQUITIES IN MENTAL HEALTH ACCESS

Black youth face deeper barriers to quality mental health care including fewer providers, longer wait times, cultural misunderstandings, and chronic underfunding. These inequities harm our children and limit their ability to thrive.



2. DANGERS OF POLICIES EXPOSING SENSITIVE STUDENT INFORMATION

Policies that require schools to share students' mental health or gender identity information with parents or others put young people at risk of rejection, stigma, discrimination, and even abuse.



3. THE IMPORTANCE OF CONFIDENTIALITY FOR STUDENTS

Confidentiality is often a lifeline for students experiencing abuse, trauma, or homelessness. It helps them build trust with counselors, seek help, and stay safe. Without it, students may suffer in silence.



4. THE INEQUITY OF "EQUAL RULES" WITH UNEQUAL OUTCOMES

Rules that ignore race and context often deepen disparities. When policies don't address structural racism, they treat unequal systems as fair, resulting in unequal harm. Equity requires more than the same rules; it requires justice.



5. MENTAL HEALTH IS A CIVIL RIGHTS ISSUE

Access to mental health care is a matter of dignity, safety, and freedom. Protecting Black youth means dismantling barriers, protecting privacy, and building systems that honor our humanity.

We deserve good government and good lawmaking.