

STATE OF THE COALITION

NATIONAL BASKETBALL
SOCIAL JUSTICE
COALITION   

MARCH 2026

OUR ADVOCACY FORMULA IS SIMPLE

AWARENESS + ACTION = IMPACT



ALL-STAR WEEKEND “AI IMPACT HUDDLE”

At All-Star, the Coalition and **National Basketball Players Association** teamed up to host 50 youth leaders, NBA VIPs, and cross-sector experts for the **AI Impact Huddle** at the NBPA’s PLYRS House. Held in partnership with **Brotherhood Crusade**, **Social Justice Learning Institute**, **The Transformative Good Lab.ai**, and **Open AI Academy**, the event convened the next generation of changemakers to imagine what justice can look like using the tools of the future.



The program featured remarks from Los Angeles Mayor **Karen Bass**, Washington Wizards Forward **Anthony Gill**, NBPA Foundation Exec. Dir. **Erika Swilley**, President & CEO of Brotherhood Crusade **Charisse Bremond Weaver**, Fmr. President & CEO of California Endowment **Dr. Robert Ross**, AI & Justice Consortium Exec. Dir. **Christopher Edley III**, and Brotherhood Crusade Youth Leader **Oriana McKenzie**.

The youth participants led **AI-powered design sprints**, exploring solutions to social justice issues from community safety, to economic development, to policy and systems redesign. Their insights were compiled into **comprehensive action reports**, reminding us that the impact of AI is not predetermined—it will be shaped by all of us.

See the recap [→](#)

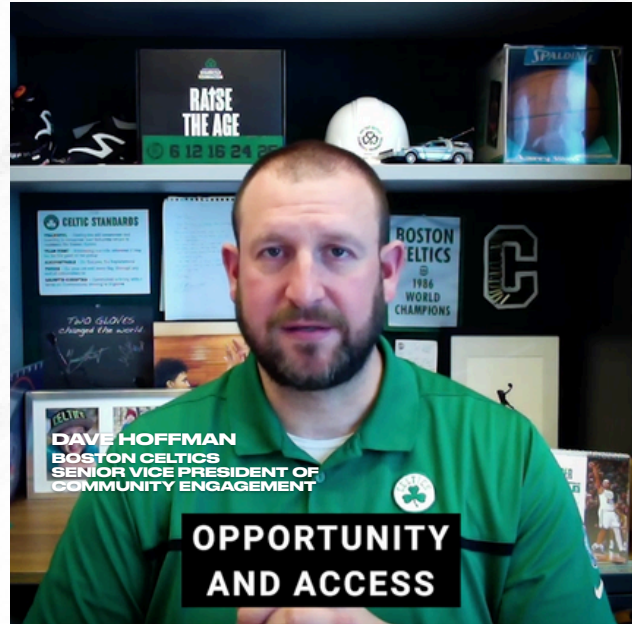


IMPACT SPOTLIGHT

The Coalition works closely with members of the NBA community to advance social justice through the power of basketball.

Hear from **Dave Hoffman**, Senior Vice President of Community Engagement at the Boston Celtics and Boston Celtics Shamrock Foundation, on how the Celtics are driving impact on juvenile justice.

Learn more about the Celtics' advocacy



Xs & Os: GET THE FACTS

Excessive punishment slows youth development & undermines public safety.

- From 2016 to 2022, youth offending **dropped by 14%**.
- Shifting to community-based responses caused a **75% drop** in youth incarceration.

Incarcerating kids is expensive and worsens racial disparities.

- **\$588/day** per incarcerated youth vs. \$75/day for diversion.
- Youth of color are up to **5X as likely** to be incarcerated than white peers.

Justice system barriers drive families into debt and hurt the economy.

- Court fines and fees perpetuate poverty and **long-term system involvement**.
- Juvenile record barriers limit labor market participation and shrink **talent pipeline**.



JUMP LEADERSHIP ACCELERATOR

UVA RESIDENCY WEEK

In January, our '26 JLA Cohort tipped off their journey with "UVA Residency Week," with policy sessions at **UVA Darden School of Business**; bipartisan legislator meetings on **Capitol Hill**; advocacy sessions with **National Youth Employment Coalition**; and meetings with key executives at **JPMorganChase PolicyCenter** and **The Business Roundtable**.

The cohort expanded their skillset, strengthened their messaging, and showed up with clear purpose—connecting lived experience to policy leadership and advocacy in classrooms, boardrooms, and the halls of Congress.



Watch the JUMP leaders' journey [→](#)



CAMPAIGN WORKSHOP @ INTUIT

On January 27, the Coalition partnered with the **LA Clippers** and **Justice & Upward Mobility Project (JUMP)** to host "Changing the Narrative, Changing the Game," a pre-All-Star Weekend campaign workshop for our JLA cohort



Hosted at Intuit Dome, the event supported our 7 JUMP Leaders as they develop impact campaigns focused on second chances, centering the role of storytelling in systems change. The program featured a keynote discussion with **Scott Budnick** (Film producer, Founder, Anti-Recidivism Coalition) and **Alencia Johnson** (CNN Political Analyst & Commentator).

POLICY REWIND



ADVANCING SAFETY & JUSTICE

Community Safety and Policing Reform are two of our Coalition's 4 core policy pillars. And they are connected: we advocate for community-based, public health approaches that address violence; and we support the essential transparency and accountability in law enforcement practices that create justice and safety.

POLICING REFORM

We promote policies that advance transparency and accountability in policing practices to build safety and justice for all. Learn more from our May '25 [Policy Play](#).

ALTERNATIVES TO ARREST & INCARCERATION

Programs diverting people from justice system to support services tackling root causes of crime: e.g., alternative first response and co-crisis response teams.

ACCOUNTABILITY & BEST PRACTICES

Policies prioritizing de-escalation, limiting excessive force, addressing misconduct, ending racial profiling, and banning no-knock warrants.



DC COMMUNITY SAFETY TOWN HALL: SJC + ASJ + MONUMENTAL SPORTS

Coalition Recap →

COMMUNITY SAFETY

Strengthening public safety requires broadening our understanding of what it means to be safe and expanding the tools available—by investing in community-based, public health solutions.

OFFICES OF VIOLENCE PREVENTION

State or local agencies dedicated to coordinating and implementing strategies that reduce violence through prevention, intervention, and community engagement.

COMMUNITY VIOLENCE INTERVENTION

Evidence-informed strategies engaging those most impacted by violence with localized, public health approaches to prevent and reduce violence before it occurs: a critical part of first responder ecosystems.

COMMUNITY



COMMUNITY

POLICY SNAPSHOT



20K

Minneapolis' 24/7 Behavioral Crisis Response has dispatched two mobile units via 911 to 20,000 calls over two years with zero injuries to those served.

National League of Cities

23%

Research has found violence interrupter strategies have resulted in 16-23% reductions in homicides & nonfatal shootings.

Johns Hopkins Center for Gun Violence Solutions

53%

In the Albuquerque Community Safety department's first year of operations, police department use-of-force incidents declined by 53%.

Vera Institute of Justice

VOTING RIGHTS



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE: THE SAVE ACT

On February 11, the U.S. House of Representatives **passed** a version of the **SAVE Act** (S. 1383), which would require American citizens to show documents such as a birth certificate or passport in order to register to vote. The in-person document requirements would upend voter registration methods used by **more than 90% of Americans**—including registering online, by mail, or at the department of motor vehicles.

21M

More than 21 million U.S. citizens of voting age don't have ready access to these documents—over 9% of voting age citizens.

Brennan Center for Justice

69M

69 million women who have married don't have a birth certificate matching their new legal name.

Forbes

8hrs

Some rural voters would have to drive up to 8 hours trip to their election offices to show documents to be able to vote.

Center for American Progress

The SAVE Act would **disenfranchise** Americans of all ages and races but would disproportionately impact younger voters and voters of color. Voting should be accessible to all eligible voters and legislation should expand access, not add barriers to the ballot. It is now up to the Senate to reject the **renewed** effort to pass the SAVE Act, which would stop millions of American citizens from voting and has bipartisan opposition from Republican and Democratic **leaders**.

Make your voice heard on the SAVE Act today



SJC ON THE ROAD



**CLE x SJC: CAVS
SOCIAL IMPACT
ACADEMY SOCIAL
JUSTICE 101
FEB '26**



**SJC x JUMP: SXSW
JLA PANEL + LARRY
MILLER, KEN OLIVER,
ALENCIA JOHNSON
MAR '26**



**SJC x JUMP: NAT'L
YOUTH EMPLOYMENT
COALITION SUMMIT
JLA PANEL
MAR '26**



**DET x SJC: PISTONS
SOCIAL IMPACT
SUMMIT FOR SECOND
CHANCES
APR '26**



LEARN MORE

**State Bills Would Require
Passport or Birth Certificate
to Register to Vote**
Brennan Center for Justice



**The Business Case
for Second Chance
Employment**
*Second Chance
Business Coalition*



**Police Use of Force
Policies Across America**
Stanford Law School



**How does US law
enforcement work?
Who has jurisdiction?**
USA Facts



**IACP Calls on White House
to Convene Joint Federal-
State-Local Discussion on
Public Safety**
*International Association of
Chiefs of Police*



**Voter ID is NOT
Documentary Proof of
Citizenship. Here's Why
That Matters.**
Voting Rights Lab



COALITION.NBA.COM



@NBACOALITION

