



COMMUNITY WELLBEING TOOLKIT

CFA ANTI-RACISM & SOCIAL JUSTICE

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- <https://www.calfac.org/council-for-racial-social-justice/>
- California Faculty Association
1110 K Street
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COMMUNITY WELLBEING Taskforce

The California Faculty Association (CFA) is an anti-racism and social justice union. As such we have been calling for reimagining of safety on our campuses since 2017.

This means transforming the approach to safety and security in ways that address racism and bias, excessive violent use of force, and the experiences of faculty and students from marginalized backgrounds. Our goal is to center the wellbeing of people and create campuses that are truly safe, inclusive, and supportive.

During the last round of full contract bargaining for the 2022-2024 collective bargaining agreement the CFA bargaining team made proposals to address campus safety concerns with evidence-based practices. The CSU was an unwilling partner. CFA sponsored [Assembly Bill 1997](#), which was signed into law by Governor Newsom in September of 2022.

AB 1997 requires the Chancellor of the California State University (CSU) system to assemble a workgroup of stakeholders to develop alternatives to emergency responses. CFA has a representative on the CSU stakeholder's workgroup who also chairs our Community Wellbeing Taskforce (CWT).

CFA's Community Wellbeing Taskforce is engaging in research and organizing toward ending militarized policing on our campuses. CFA and the CWT remain committed to proactive measures, addressing root causes of issues, and fostering a sense of community and trust through education, transformation, and advocacy for racially and socially just campuses, free of institutional anti-Blackness.

We want this toolkit to help make social change on our campuses. Do share it with others interested in building campus communities that are free from the tyranny of militarized policing. For example, you might think to form a study group, develop a series of topical workshops, incorporate as a course module, create talking circles for people to share their experiences policing on campus and in the surrounding community, organize an interdisciplinary showcase and many other ideas.

MEET THE TEAM

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MEET THE TEAM

Community Wellbeing Taskforce



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CFA'S ALTERNATIVES TO CAMPUS POLICING EFFORTS

SEPTEMBER 19, 2024

The [formation](#) of a taskforce dedicated to reimagining safety and identifying alternatives to policing on campus has not led to a commensurate decrease in policing despite persistent low levels of crime on our campuses. Even during the recent pandemic, when our campuses were virtually empty of the campus community members, we continued to see millions of dollars spent on well armed, fully staffed campus police units. CFA calls for “the People’s University” to assure the well-being of all its members and to recognize that the presence of a militarized police force counters that aim.

We Need Alternatives to Campus Police

This work is the logical outgrowth of CFA’s [2015](#) turn to an Anti-Racism and Social Justice Transformation guided by an intersectional approach to interlocking systems of oppression. We know many of our students, indeed growing numbers of faculty too, have suffered intergenerational trauma triggered by overexposure to the criminal justice system and policing practices that assure jails and prisons disproportionately house people of color. Further, our students from immigrant communities have been overexposed to multiple layers of policing from ICE and Border Patrol, sheriffs, and state police. Campus police, especially those who are militarized and geared up, pose a fearful presence that does not lead to a sense of belonging.



This work took precedence in 2017 as the murder of a Black Humboldt State University student, [David Josiah Lawson](#), drew our attention to the ways Black students are recruited to campuses in white communities that do not protect them from the virulent racism that they are likely to confront. We began to discuss what safety looks like for students, faculty and staff of color on our campuses, and how we do not equate the police with their “protect and serve” motto.

Then, in 2020 after the public police execution of George Floyd CFA committed to address anti-Black racism. [We issued a series of related demands including:](#)

Article continues to next page 

“...that the CSU divest from its relations with police institutions throughout the state, defund campus policing, remove armed police from your campuses and join CFA in exploring community-based strategies as alternatives to policing that are based on community accountability and transformative justice.”

Then, in 2021 we joined the growing call in the labor movement to [end our connection to police associations](#), which are not labor unions. Indeed, along with their deeply racist anti-Black roots, police associations have a long history of suppressing strikes and being anti-worker. Read our resolution [here](#).

Given the [settler/colonialist, racist roots of policing](#), CFA’s commitment to Anti-Racism and Social Justice led us to organize for alternatives to policing on campus. We condemn the racist abuse of Asian, Pacific Islander, Black, Indigenous, Chicana/x/Latina and other peoples of color, a daily lived experience our colleagues and students routinely face at the hands of armed police be it through routine [racial profiling](#) or well-known incidents such as the [violent removal of a colleague from a campus building](#) or [faculty having police called on them by an annoyed colleague](#). Meanwhile, it is also routine that when Black students are victims of violence in their campus communities the police are not there to “protect and serve” and justice is again, elusive.

CFA’s Anti-Racism and Social Justice work addresses systemic, structural racism and thus calls on us to confront the policies and practices such as policing that reinforce anti-Black, colonial, racist, [misogynist oppression](#) and communicate to students and faculty from marginalized communities that they are not welcome on campus; they are treated with suspicion.

What We Have Accomplished, So Far: Assembly Bill 1997 (AB1997)

During our most recent negotiations, CFA’s Bargaining Team repeatedly called on the CSU to fund mechanisms for conflict resolution rooted in [restorative justice](#) and to explore alternatives to armed policing on our campuses. Faced with the CSU’s recalcitrance, CFA sponsored legislation to study alternatives to policing in the CSU, [urged our members to advocate for it](#), and ultimately got [AB 1997](#) signed into law. Since becoming law, the CSU has convened the "stakeholder workgroup" several times to discuss alternatives to policing. Concurrently, CFA's Community Wellbeing Taskforce has been engaging members on why it's necessary to get cops off campus. It is a long but necessary process, and it will only happen if we educate each other, create racially just visions for campus safety, and organize!"

Shifting the dialogue on our campuses, with our students, and within our union

CFA members are everywhere! We participate in shared governance as well as union organizing. We have helped to shift the dialogue on policing on campus within our Academic Senates, and faculty are increasingly concerned with the underfunding of counselors while campus police are as plentiful as they are menacing.

We are also listening to students' demands. Students for Quality Education ([SQE](#)) has launched a "[No Harm, Disarm](#)" campaign, and several Associated Students, Inc. (ASI) student governance bodies have passed resolutions demanding reform or outright abolition of campus police, including at [Cal State Long Beach](#), Cal State Fullerton, [San Francisco State](#), [Cal State Northridge](#), and [Cal State LA](#), with some Academic Senates beginning to follow students' lead. Within CFA, we have done the work of educating ourselves through Equity Conference presentations, workshops on police abolition, and ongoing study and struggle.



Students for Quality Education interns advocate for options to the typical response to incidents that occur on our campuses.

The Work Ahead...

CFA's Community Wellbeing Taskforce (CWT) knows that a tremendous organizing effort lies ahead of us, and we are undaunted, as we know we cannot have racially and socially just campuses free of institutional anti-Blackness with armed police acting as occupying forces.

- We continue to follow and encourage efforts of the stakeholder group created to address Alternatives to Policing, as mandated by the law (AB 1997).
- We will support CFA chapters in leading the organizing on their campuses in various ways, such as: (1) assisting with information requests about police budgets; (2) supporting the formation of conversation circles about building alternative visions to public safety on campus, and more.
- We will promote various efforts to transform ourselves and our campuses, such as the upcoming podcast episode covering alternatives to campus police on the "Building Justice" podcast being produced by Sacramento State faculty on alternatives to policing. Stay tuned.

What you can do...

- Get involved with your [CFA chapter leadership team](#) in creating spaces to dialogue and organize on how to reimagine safety and justice on our campuses.
- **Send us your stories** of contact with police, either on or off campus – as we know that our campuses and communities are connected. Email your narrative to Audrena Redmond (aredmond@calfac.org), and let us know if you're willing to record a video testimony, too.



BECOME A MEMBER OF THE CALIFORNIA FACULTY ASSOCIATION

Join thousands of instructional faculty, librarians, counselors, and coaches to protect academic freedom, faculty rights, safe workplaces, higher education, student learning, and fight for racial and social justice.

[Sign Up](#)



What do campus police actually do?

Across campuses, the majority of campus police work does not require police: more than half of encounters involve traffic or parking issues.

Some examples:

Channel Islands

62% of incidents were "security check",
12% were "preventative patrol".

The next largest categories were for "parking/traffic enforcement, 8%, and unlocking gates/doors/pools—which was around 1650 incidents, or 5%.

Their budget: around \$3 million/year.



Fresno

61% of stops were for alleged traffic violations.

There are twice as many cops as counselors at Fresno. 7% of arrests on that campus in 2022 were involuntary psychiatric holds (5150s), which should have involved mental health professionals instead.



Los Angeles

61% of stops were for alleged traffic violations.
Department budget: \$3 million/year.



Northridge

60% of stops were for alleged traffic violations.
Department budget: \$4.6 million/year.



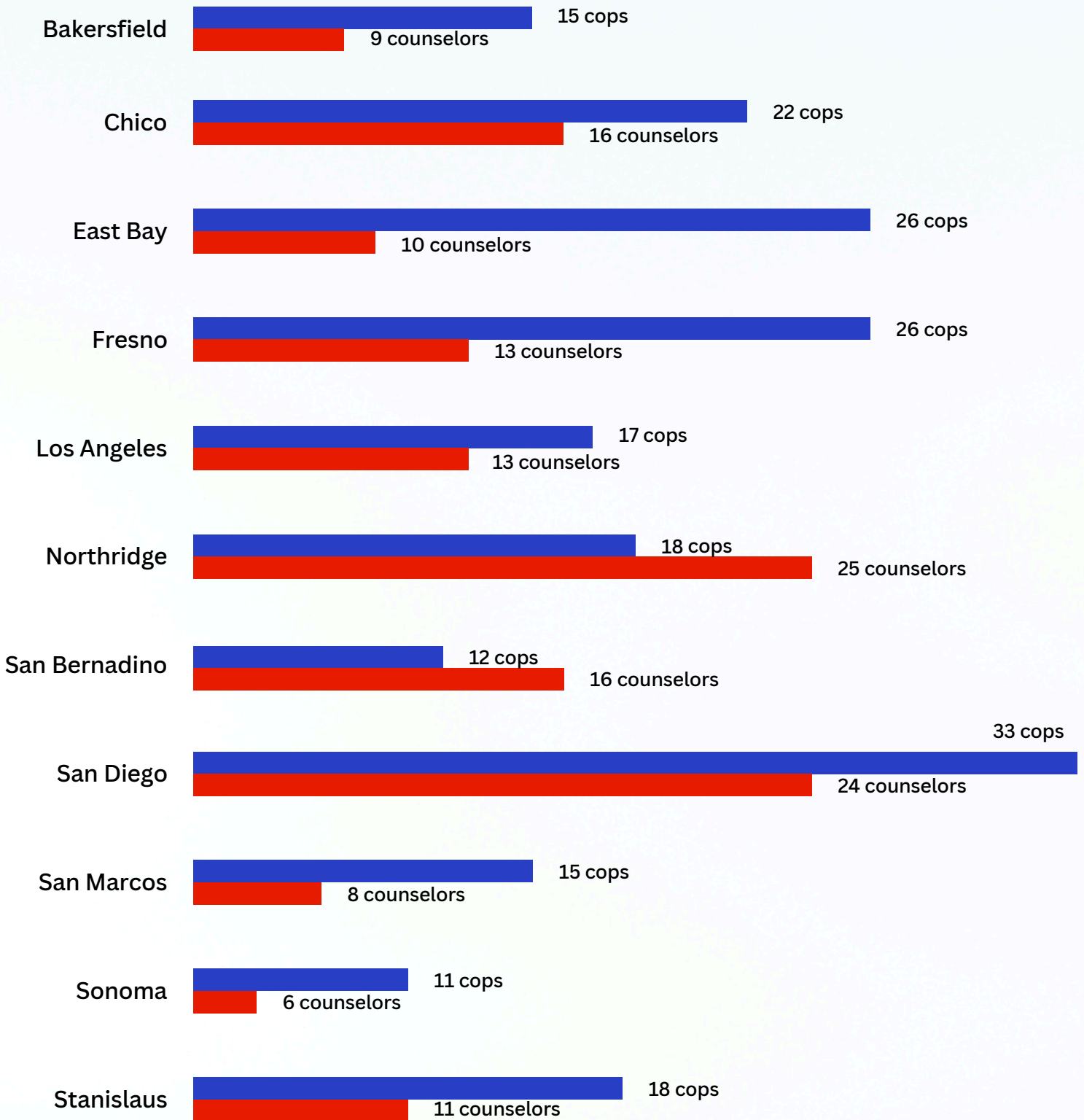
San Marcos

85% of stops were for alleged traffic violations.
Department budget: \$3.9 million/year.



What Actually Keeps Students Safe?

At nine of the 11 campuses where responses to our information requests were sufficient, we see that campus police are significantly more staffed than psychological counselors.



*As of information received April 2023 - April 2024

BACKGROUND

SCAN THE QR CODES BELOW OR [CLICK HERE](#)



CFA Members Advocate for Alternatives to Policing Through Library Displays



Changing the Narrative about Policing



CFA's Alternatives to Campus Policing Efforts



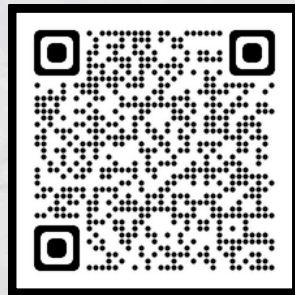
No Harm, Disarm!



Townhall Reviews Solutions to Racially Biased Pretext Stops by Police



Universities Need Critical Response Teams and Counselors, Not Police



CFA's Alternatives to Campus Policing Efforts



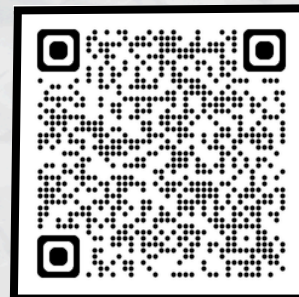
CSU Policing Taskforce Announced & How SQE Campaign, CFA's Anti-Black Racism Demands Led to Change



Equity Week Calls for Reckoning with America's Violence and Racism



CFA Fights for Environmental Justice and Less Reliance on Armed Police



Legislation Reintroduced to Fully End Qualified Immunity

For more on qualified immunity, click [here](#) or [here](#).

WHAT CAN FACULTY DO?

Chapter leaders can take several steps to support the work of the Community Wellbeing Taskforce and Students for Quality Education.

Ideas:

- Organize with your chapter Council for Racial and Social Justice (CRSJ) Representatives and the CFA Anti-Racism and Social Justice Department to host workshops, seminars, and forums on the topic.
- Get involved with your **CFA chapter leadership team** in creating spaces to dialogue and organize on how to reimagine safety and justice on our campuses.
- Host lunch and learn conversations with guest facilitators or reflection on short articles. See resources below.
- Form a learning community comprised of faculty, students, and staff who will engage in research, discussion, and strategy for addressing the issue of safety on campus.
- Work with your campus librarians to create educational displays in the library and around campus.
- Contact your chapter CFA political action and legislation representative to lobby elected leaders and to support alternative solutions and lobby for the allocation of resources for alternative safety and support mechanisms.
- Demand that your campus administration share the university police budget with specific allocations and explain funding sources. How else can these funds be used on your campus?
- Send us your stories of contact with police, either on or off campus – as we know that our campuses and communities are connected. Email your narrative to Audrena Redmond (aredmond@calfac.org) and let us know if you are willing to record a video testimony, too.

HELPFUL RESOURCES

SCAN OR CLICK THE QR CODES BELOW:

We have set forth demands to push past the barriers of systemic racism to confront white supremacy and heteropatriarchy, so that we may protect, serve, and inform students and faculty. *Our Way Forward* offers a guideline to defend quality higher education.



OUR WAY FORWARD I



OUR WAY FORWARD II

CFA Members Advocate for Alternatives to Policing Through Library Displays

CSU Libraries Exhibit/Display on Alternatives to Policing. This document is an outline intended to guide CFA librarians to develop exhibits or displays at their campuses in order to spark campus discussions on matters of abolition, safety, surveillance and policing, viable resources available on campus or nearby, as well as the issues and topics that intersect with alternatives to policing (e.g., anti-black racism, institutionalized violence and oppression, etc.).



**“ABOLITION IS ABOUT PRESENCE, NOT ABSENCE.
IT’S ABOUT BUILDING LIFE-AFFIRMING
INSTITUTIONS. “**

- RUTH WILSON GILMORE

**CHECK OUT
THESE RESOURCES**



by

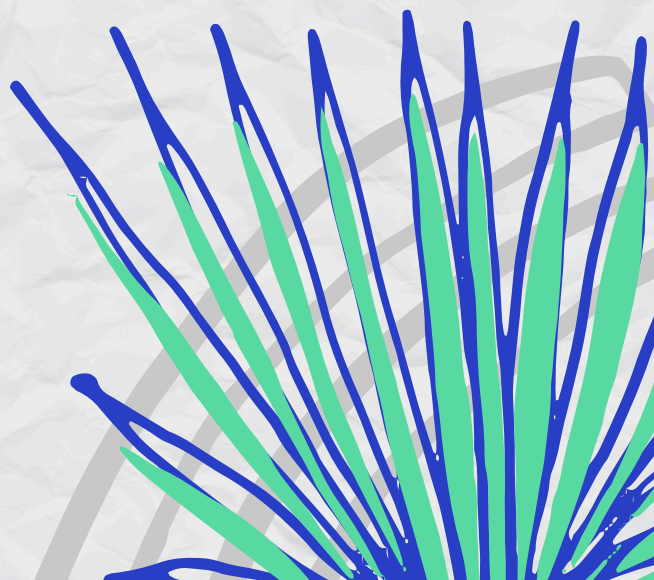
Akhila L. Ananth and Priscilla Leiva



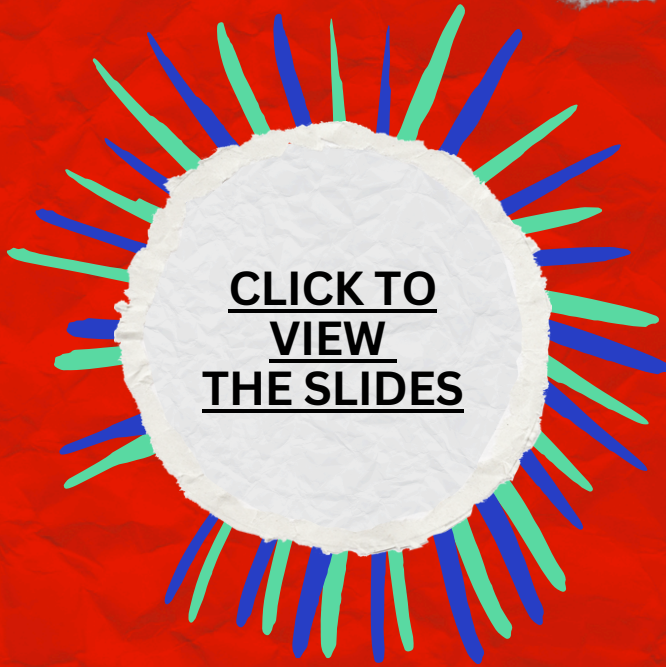
Policing the People’s University



Policing the People’s University:
The Precarity of Sanctuary in the
California State University System



CAMPUS ABOLITION HOUSE PARTY SLIDES



This is a presentation given by the CFA White Anti-Racism Committee (WARC) in working to transform our communities in coalition with other organizations. Here, you'll find information and tools around abolition and the history of policing that brought us to this moment.



RELATED TO CONTRACT BARGAINING

CLICK OR SCAN THE QR CODES BELOW:



CSU Leadership Rejects CFA's Anti-Racism, Structural Change Proposals, MARCH 24, 2021



CFA Members Address Trustees, Chancellor on Bargaining, Repopulation, Racial Justice, and More, APRIL 1, 2021



CFA Members Share Painful Personal Stories Backing Up Our Bargaining Proposals, APRIL 21, 2021



Bargaining: Article 37 Health and Safety, AUGUST 8, 2023

WATCH



Re-Imagining
Safety



No More Police: A Case
for Abolition - Featured:
Andrea Ritchie (1:12:52)



Defund Police |
Project NIA
(3:59)

LISTEN



Building Justice
Podcast



CFA: The Way
Forward

READ

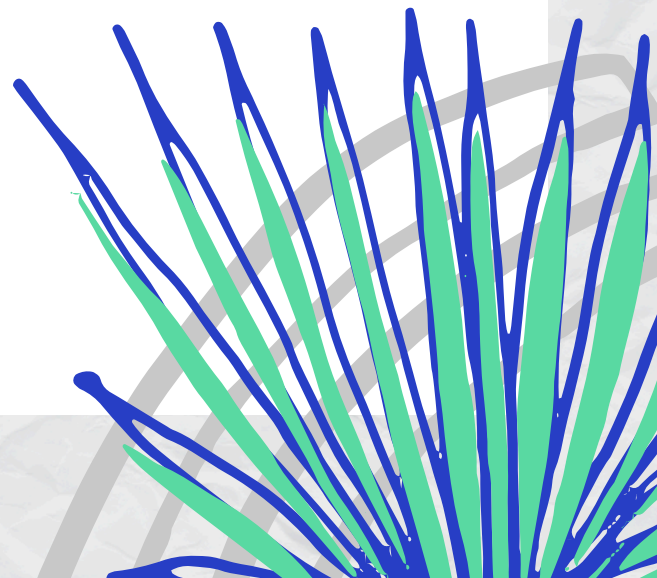
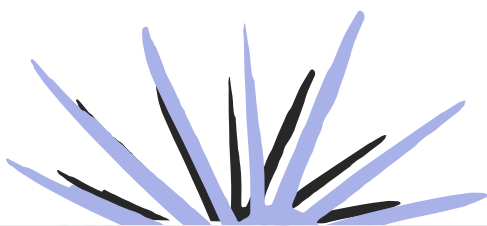
CLICK THE LINKS BELOW:

- “Antiracism, Social Justice, and the California Faculty Association” by Charles Toombs
- “No More Police Reading and Discussion Guide” by Derek at The New Press
- Reformist -vs- Abolitionist Steps in Policing
- The Demand is Still Defund the Police by Andrea J. Ritchie
- Curb Prison Spending
- Study – Guide: Invisible No More: Police Violence Against Black Women and Women of Color
- So Is This Actually an Abolitionist Proposal or Strategy? A collection of resources to aid in evaluation and reflection
- Interrupting Criminalization
- 5 issues that could affect the future of campus police by The Conversation
- Most Americans in New Survey Say Police Reforms Necessary by Olafimihan Oshin
- Oakland Eliminated its School Police Force—So What Happens Now? By Samuel Getachew
- Policing the People’s University: The Precarity of Sanctuary in the California State University System by Akhila L. Ananth and Priscilla Leiva
- What Is Abolition, And Why Do We Need It? by Reina Sultan and Micah Herskind
- Anti-Black Racism Demands

ORGANIZATIONS TO FOLLOW

CLICK THE LINKS CODES BELOW:

- [American Society of Criminology](#)
- [UCDC Abolitions Conference](#)
- [WEB Du Bois Abolition Movement School](#)
- [American Studies Association](#)
- [National Women's Studies Association](#)
- [Catalyst California](#)
- [Critical Resistance](#)
- [Curb Prison Spending](#)
- [Interrupting Criminalization](#)



Political Action and Legislation – see the list of bills
and summaries on the following pages

2021 End of Session
Legislative Report



Legislative Update 2022



Request for Information (RFI) Template

CLICK HERE: [RFI - Campus Police Template](#)

POLITICAL ACTION & LEGISLATION

2021 -2022 Legislative Session ([Click here](#))

Bill/Author	Summary	Location	CFA Position
<p>AB 48 Gonzalez (D)</p>	<p>Law Enforcement: Kinetic Energy Projectiles Prohibits the use of kinetic energy projectiles or chemical agents by any law enforcement agency to disperse any assembly, protest, or demonstration, except in compliance with specified standards. Prohibits their use solely due to a violation of an imposed curfew, verbal threat, or noncompliance with a law enforcement directive. Includes certain standards for the use of kinetic energy projectiles and chemical agents to disperse gatherings.</p>	<p>Signed by the Governor - Chapter 404, Statutes of 2021</p>	<p>Sponsor</p>
<p>AB 60 Salas (D)</p>	<p>Law Enforcement Disqualifies a person from being employed as a peace officer if that person has been convicted of, or has been adjudicated by a military tribunal as having committed an offense that would have been a felony if committed in this state. Disqualifies any person who has been certified as a peace officer by the Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training and has had that certification revoked by the commission. Establishes the Peace Officer Standards Accountability Advisory Board.</p>	<p>Held in Assembly Public Safety Committee</p>	<p>Support</p>



Bill/Author	Summary	Location	CFA Position
<p>AB 89 Jones-Sawyer (D)</p>	<p>Peace Officers: Minimum Qualifications The PEACE Act would require the Commission on Police Officer Standards and Training (POST) to work collaboratively with stakeholders to develop a list of courses to include as requirements for obtaining a basic certificate to become a police officer. In addition, the bill would require the Commission, in developing these courses, to work with the California Community Colleges towards developing a full Associate's degree for transfer in modern policing. The bill would also require the Commission, upon an appropriation by the Legislature, to develop a program to provide financial support for a higher education degree for individuals pursuing a law enforcement career. Finally, AB 89 would increase the minimum qualifying age to become a police officer from 18 years of age to 21 years of age and would, on and after January 1, 2025, require those officers to complete the curriculum or degree program developed by POST or to have a bachelor's degree or other advanced degree from an accredited college or university.</p>	<p>Signed by the Governor - Chapter 405, Statutes of 2021</p>	<p>Co-Sponsor</p>
<p>AB 118 Kamlager (D)</p>	<p>Department of Social Services: C.R.I.S.E.S. Grant Pilot Enacts the Community Response Initiative to Strengthen Emergency Systems Act, or the C.R.I.S.E.S. Act, for purposes of creating, implementing, and evaluating the C.R.I.S.E.S. Grant Pilot Program, which the act would establish. Requires the Department of Social Services to administer the program if appropriate funding is made available to the department. Requires the department to award grants to qualified grantees based on grant eligibility criteria developed in partnership with a stakeholder workgroup.</p>	<p>Held in Assembly Public Safety Committee</p>	<p>Support</p>



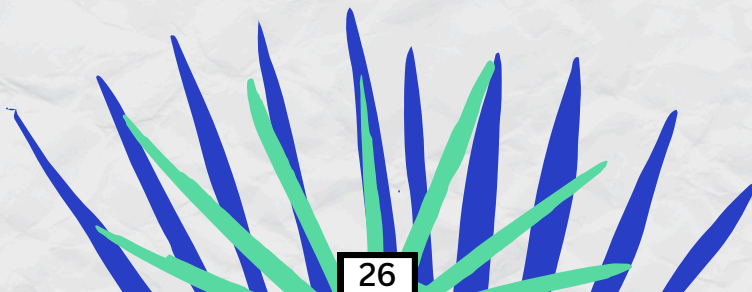
Bill/Author	Summary	Location	CFA Position
AB 481 Chiu (D)	<p>Law Enforcement Agencies: Military Equipment: Funding Requires a law enforcement agency, defined to include specified entities, to obtain approval of the applicable governing body, by adoption of a military equipment use policy, as specified, by ordinance at a regular meeting held pursuant to specified open meeting laws, prior to taking certain actions relating to the funding, acquisition, or use of military equipment, as defined. Requires similar approval for the continued use of military equipment acquired prior to a specified date.</p>	Signed by the Governor - Chapter 406, Statutes of 2021	Support
AB 490 Gipson (D)	<p>Law Enforcement Policies: Arrests: Positional Asphyxia Prohibits a law enforcement agency from authorizing techniques or transport methods that involve a substantial risk of positional asphyxia, as defined.</p>	Signed by the Governor - Chapter 407, Statutes of 2021	Co-Sponsor
AB 594 McCarty (D)	<p>Law Enforcement Policies Requires, for deadly use of force incidents other than those required to be investigated by the Attorney General, an agency to cause a criminal investigation of these incidents to be conducted. Prohibits a law enforcement agency from having primary responsibility for conducting the criminal investigation into those incidents involving an officer employed by that agency. Provides alternative protocols for investigations of those incidents.</p>	Held in Assembly Appropriations Committee (Two-Year Bill)	Support

Bill/Author	Summary	Location	CFA Position
AB 603 McCarty (D)	Law Enforcement Settlements and Judgments: Reporting Requires municipalities to annually post on their internet websites specified information relating to settlements and judgments resulting from allegations of improper police conduct, including, among other information, amounts paid, broken down by individual settlement and judgment, and information on bonds used to finance use of force settlement and judgment payments.	Vetoed by Governor on 10/08/2021	Support
AB 655 Kalra (D)	California Law Enforcement Accountability Reform Act Requires the background investigation for peace officer candidates to include an inquiry into whether a candidate for specified peace officer positions has engaged in membership in a hate group, participation in hate group activities, or public expressions of hate, as those terms are defined. Provides that certain findings would disqualify a person from employment.	Assembly Appropriations Committee (Two-Year Bill)	Co-Sponsor
AB 937 Carrillo (D)	Immigration Enforcement Prohibits state or local agencies or courts from using immigration status as a factor to deny or to recommend denial of probation or participation in any diversion, rehabilitation, mental health program, or placement in a credit-earning program or class, or to determine custodial classification level, to deny mandatory supervision, or to lengthen the portion of supervision served in custody.	Senate Floor Inactive File	Support

Bill/Author	Summary	Location	CFA Position
SB 2 Bradford (D)	Peace Officers: Certification: Civil Rights Prohibits a person who has been convicted of a felony from regaining eligibility for peace officer employment based upon any later order of the court setting aside, vacating, withdrawing, expunging or otherwise dismissing or reversing the conviction, unless the court finds the person to be factually innocent of the crime for which they were convicted at the time of entry of the order. Requires the commission to review whether there is evidence that reasonably supports that misconduct has been established.	Signed by the Governor - Chapter 409, Statutes of 2021	Co-Sponsor
SB 16 Skinner (D)	Peace Officers: Release of Records Makes a sustained finding involving force that is unreasonable or excessive, and any sustained finding that an officer failed to intervene against another officer using unreasonable or excessive force, subject to disclosure. Requires records relating to sustained findings of unlawful arrests and unlawful searches to be subject to disclosure.	Signed by the Governor - Chapter 402, Statutes of 2021	Support
SB 271 Weiner (D)	County Sheriffs: Eligibility Requirements Repeals specified eligibility requirements for county sheriffs. Allows all eligible voters to run for the office of Sheriff	Senate Governance and Finance	Co-Sponsor

Bill/Author	Summary	Location	CFA Position
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SB 16 Skinner (D)	Peace Officers: Release of Records Makes a sustained finding involving force that is unreasonable or excessive, and any sustained finding that an officer failed to intervene against another officer using unreasonable or excessive force, subject to disclosure. Requires records relating to sustained findings of unlawful arrests and unlawful searches to be subject to disclosure.	Signed by the Governor - Chapter 402, Statutes of 2021	Support
SB 271 Weiner (D)	County Sheriffs: Eligibility Requirements Repeals specified eligibility requirements for county sheriffs. Allows all eligible voters to run for the office of Sheriff	Senate Governance and Finance Committee (Two-Year Bill)	Co-Sponsor

Bill/Author	Summary	Location	CFA Position
<p>SB 493 Bradford (D)</p>	<p>Local Government Financing: Juvenile Justice Requires no less than 95% of the funds allocated under these provisions to be distributed to community-based organizations and other public agencies or departments that are not law enforcement entities, as specified, and prohibits this portion of the funds from being used for law enforcement activities or personnel.</p>	<p>Senate Appropriations Committee (Held in Committee)</p>	<p>Support</p>



POLITICAL ACTION & LEGISLATION

2021 - 2022 Legislative Session ([Click here](#))

Bill/Author	Summary	Location	CFA Position
AB 1997 Gipson (D)	<p>Alternative Campus Policing: Assembly Bill 1997 (Gipson) would require the Chancellor of the California State University, on or before July 1, 2023, to convene a stakeholder workgroup that includes a representative from specified stakeholders, including faculty, staff, and students. The bill would require the stakeholder workgroup, at a minimum, to evaluate and report on alternative options to current emergency response programs on the campuses of the California State University and alternative dispute resolution options to resolve employee conflicts. The bill would require the stakeholder workgroup to submit a report to the Legislature and the Chancellor of the California State University nine months after the first meeting of the stakeholder workgroup that includes recommendations to alleviate concerns of current emergency response programs on the campuses of the California State University. The bill would repeal these provisions on July 1, 2027. Position: Sponsor Current Status: AB 1997 was signed into law by the Governor on September 30, 2022. https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=202120220AB1997</p>	Signed by the Gov – Chapter 931, Statutes of 2022	Sponsored

Bill/Author	Summary	Location	CFA Position
<p>AB 655 (Kalra)</p>	<p>California Law Enforcement Accountability Reform Act: Assembly Bill 655 (Kalra) would require the background investigation for peace officer candidates to include an inquiry into whether a candidate for specified peace officer positions has engaged in membership in a hate group, participated in any hate group activity, or publicly expressed advocacy of hate, as those terms are defined. The bill would provide that certain findings would disqualify a person from employment. In addition, the bill would require an agency to investigate, as specified, any internal complaint, or complaint made by the public that alleges, as specified, that a peace officer engaged in membership in a hate group, participated in any hate group activity, or publicly expressed advocacy of hate. The bill would provide that certain findings would require the employing agency to remove that peace officer from appointment. Finally, AB 655 would require the Department of Justice to adopt and promulgate guidelines for the investigation and adjudication of these complaints by local agencies.</p>	<p>Signed by the Governor – Chapter 854, Statutes of 2022</p>	<p>Co-Sponsor</p>

Bill/Author	Summary	Location	CFA Position
<p>AB 1608 (Gipson and Weber)</p>	<p>Independent Coroners' Offices: Assembly Bill 1608 (Gipson and Weber) would remove the Board of Supervisors' authority to combine the duties of the sheriff with the duties of the coroner. In addition, the bill would remove the Board of Supervisors' authority to combine the duties of the tax collector with the duties of the coroner. AB 1608 would also require the Board of Supervisors of a county where the offices of the sheriff and coroner were consolidated before January 1, 2023 to separate those offices, in which case the separation would become effective upon the conclusion of the term of the person elected or appointed to the consolidated offices of sheriff and coroner. AB 1608 would ensure that local death investigations are conducted independently and objectively, reducing any perception of biased investigative medical examinations when determining the cause of death of an individual, including those in custody.</p>	<p>Failed to pass off of the Senate Floor</p>	<p>Co-Sponsor</p>