



2026 Legislative Priorities

The Public Justice Center (PJC) works to advance racial and economic justice by protecting the rights of tenants, workers, students, families, and Marylanders with low incomes. The communities we serve have long faced barriers that shape their ability to thrive. Our 2026 legislative agenda centers on five key priorities: **resisting attempts to make it easier for landlords to unlawfully evict vulnerable people, improving workplace protections and fighting for a living wage, healthcare oversight, strengthening anti-discrimination protections in schools and advancing policies that support and protect young people, and expanding the right to counsel in critical civil cases.** These priorities reflect our commitment to ensuring Marylanders can access basic human needs and meaningful justice.



Housing Stability & Tenant Protections

The Public Justice Center is working to strengthen tenant protections by expanding rental assistance, supporting Good Cause Eviction laws, and ensuring fair and transparent rental screening practices. We are also committed to stopping proposals that would allow families to be evicted **without due process.**



Worker Rights, Care Workforce, & Healthcare Oversight

Our priorities include securing living wages, improving staffing in hospitals and nursing homes, and increasing accountability and transparency in healthcare facilities. We also support statewide improvements to dementia care and stronger oversight structures to address **safety, staffing, and quality-of-care gaps.**



Educational Equity & Youth Justice Reform

We aim to reduce racial and disability-based disparities in school discipline, protect funding for high-need students, and strengthen education anti-discrimination protections. Additionally, **we support ending automatic youth charging in adult court and oppose unnecessary school removals** based on off-campus incidents.

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The Public Justice Center is a leading civil legal advocacy organization in Maryland. Since 1985, we've advanced racial equity and economic justice through legal representation, community education, and systemic reform across housing, workers' rights, education, healthcare, and public benefits.



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Civil Right to Counsel in Critical Cases

We continue to advance the right to counsel in civil cases that affect basic needs—such as eviction, family stability, safety, and immigration—because legal representation **significantly improves outcomes and keeps families housed, safe, and stable.**



Healthcare Access & Strengthening the Safety Net

The Public Justice Center is focused on protecting Marylanders' access to essential healthcare and public benefits by pushing back against federal changes that threaten Medicaid, SNAP, and other critical supports. We are also committed to preserving and codifying nondiscrimination protections to ensure that everyone—particularly communities facing the greatest health disparities—**can access equitable, comprehensive care.**

Together, we will build a just society.

2025 Year-At-A-Glance

10.5 Million

ESTIMATED NUMBER OF INDIVIDUALS BENEFITING FROM THE PJC'S ADVOCACY

\$6,338,536

DIRECT ECONOMIC BENEFITS FOR OUR CLIENTS RESULTING FROM PJC REPRESENTATION

962

NUMBER OF CLIENTS RECEIVING LEGAL SERVICES FROM THE PJC

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