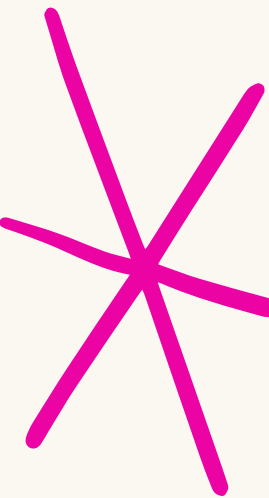


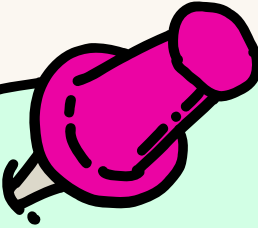
By Mercy and Jess



Policy

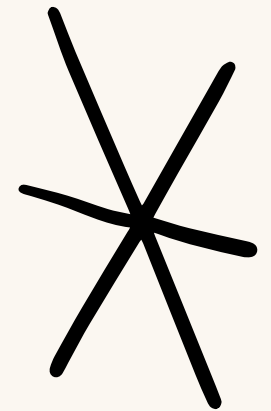


BRAINSTORM

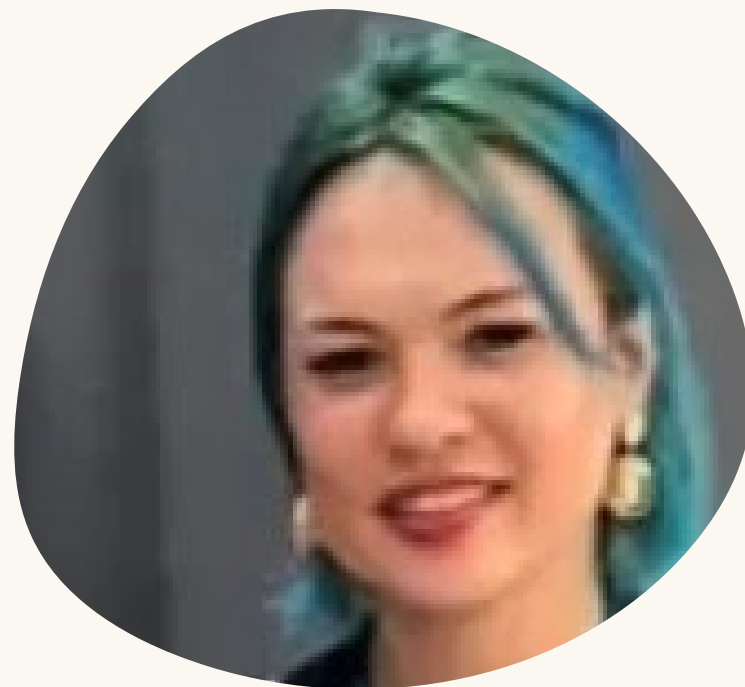


# Agenda

1. Introduction
2. The team
3. Ice breaker
4. Bills we are working on
5. Bills you'd like to work on
6. Tips and Tricks
7. Contact



# \* \* Survivor Policy Coalition



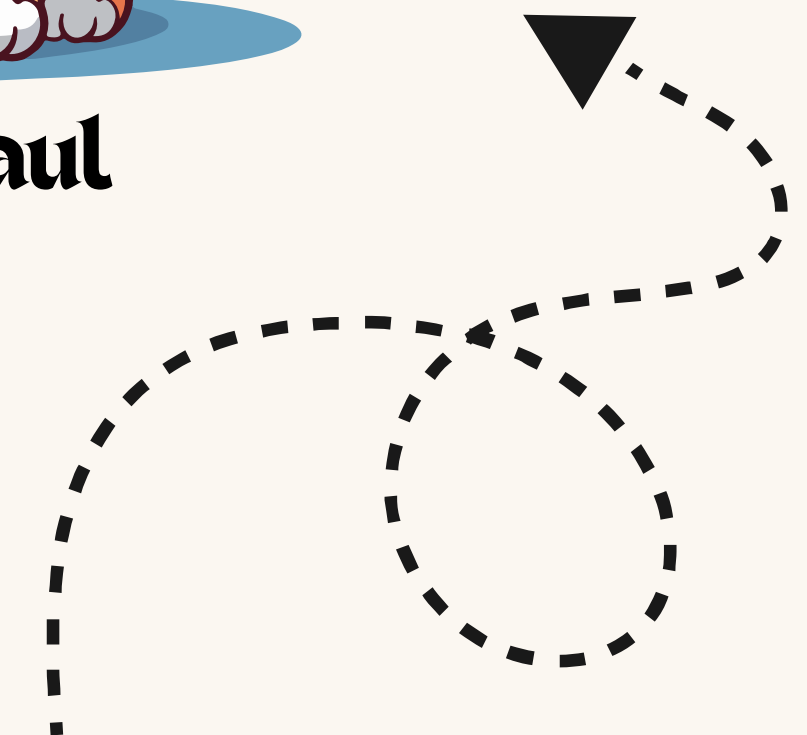
**Mercy Gray**



**Jess Torres**



**Nat Paul**



# Introduction

Mercy Gray of the Kapampangan people of the Philippine Islands and Apache descendant is a survivor leader, national consultant, and former sex worker with trafficking experiences. Mercy provides technical assistance and consultation with a specialized focus in providing assistance with LGBTQ2IA+ inclusion within anti-violence services. She is awarded by the California State Legislature Assembly recognizing her leadership and contributions to the anti-trafficking movement and the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children Hero Award. She has provided technical assistance for Federal, State, and Tribal Nations along with the Department of Homeland Security, Federal Office of Trafficking in Persons National Human Trafficking, Training, and Technical Assistance Center, and with the Office for Victims of Crime under the Department of Justice, and office for the President of the United States.



Hi there! I'm Mercy!



# Introduction



Hi there! I'm Jess

Jess Torres (they/them), currently resides in Long Beach, CA and is a Trans Indigenous writer, educator and organizer dedicated to community building, direct action and policy work for the marginalized and criminalized. They are of Lenca lineage born on the stretch of earth now called El Salvador; displaced on unceded Matinecock land in so-called NY as an “undocumented” immigrant for twenty five years. Jess is a systems-impacted youth with lived experience of child trafficking. They have fifteen years of advocacy in the anti-trafficking and sex worker rights movement, including leadership roles with: the Little Market, the former Survivor Leadership Program Coordinator at the Coalition to Abolish Slavery and Trafficking (CAST), and currently serves as an independent consultant with various federal and state agencies and as Expert Trainer and Communications Specialist with Rising Worldwide in addition to being an active Consultant for the Southern CA region, with the Preventing and Addressing Child Trafficking (PACT) Project.

# Brainstorming

## CURRENT BILLS

- 1** For every unit of critique we offer a unit of support.
- 2** Name some issues people in the sex trade face you think could be solved with these approaches
- 3** Issues that may worsen
- 4** Hard stop boundaries in negotiation. ie no diversion program, must include immunity from robbery, not necessary to have trafficking experience for MH bill

Mental Health  
Lived Experience  
Experts

Immunity Bills  
for Minors

AB379

# AB379

## Fees for Buyers and Diversion



- **DIVERSION**

Creates diversion program for workers charged with 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> offenses

- **FINES FOR BUYERS**

Fines an additional 1000 dollars to buyers soliciting.

- **REDISTRIBUTION**

Creates grant funds and awarding body to redistribute those funds.

- **CRIME CREATION**


Creates a new crime of loitering misdemeanor for buyers.





## **Element 1 AB379**

**require a person who commits prostitution with the intent to receive compensation, money, or anything of value from another person to, for a first or 2nd violation of those provisions, be offered a diversion program pursuant to specified provisions.**

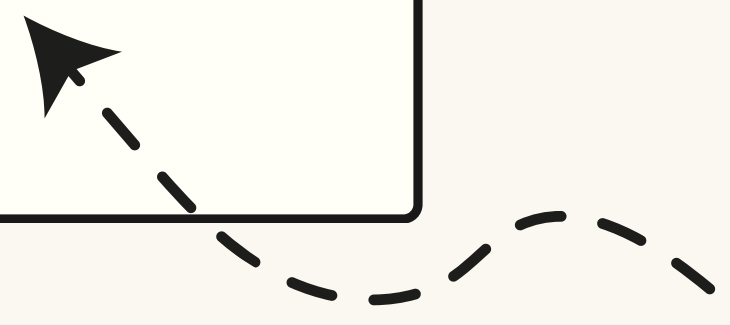






## **Element 2 AB379**

**The bill would make it a misdemeanor for any person to loiter in any public place with the intent to purchase commercial sex, as specified. The bill would make any person who violates that crime or who commits prostitution in exchange for providing compensation, money, or anything of value to the other person subject to an additional fine of \$1,000,**





## **Element 3 AB379**

would establish the Survivor Support Fund and require that additional fines be deposited in the fund. The bill would require the California Victim Compensation Board to establish a grant program to provide grants to community-based organizations that provide direct services and outreach to victims of sex trafficking and exploitation





## **Element 4 AB379**

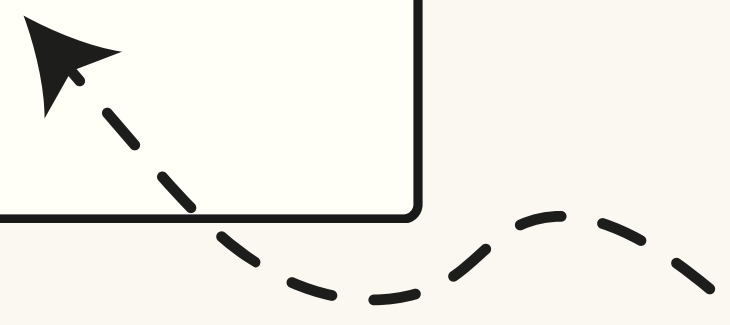
**and would, upon appropriation by  
the Legislature, authorize  
moneys in the Survivor Support  
Fund to be used for the purposes  
of that grant program.**





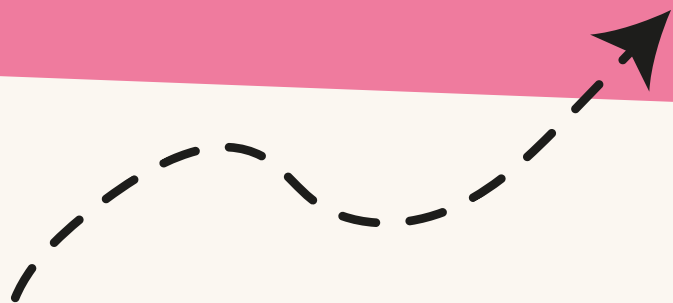
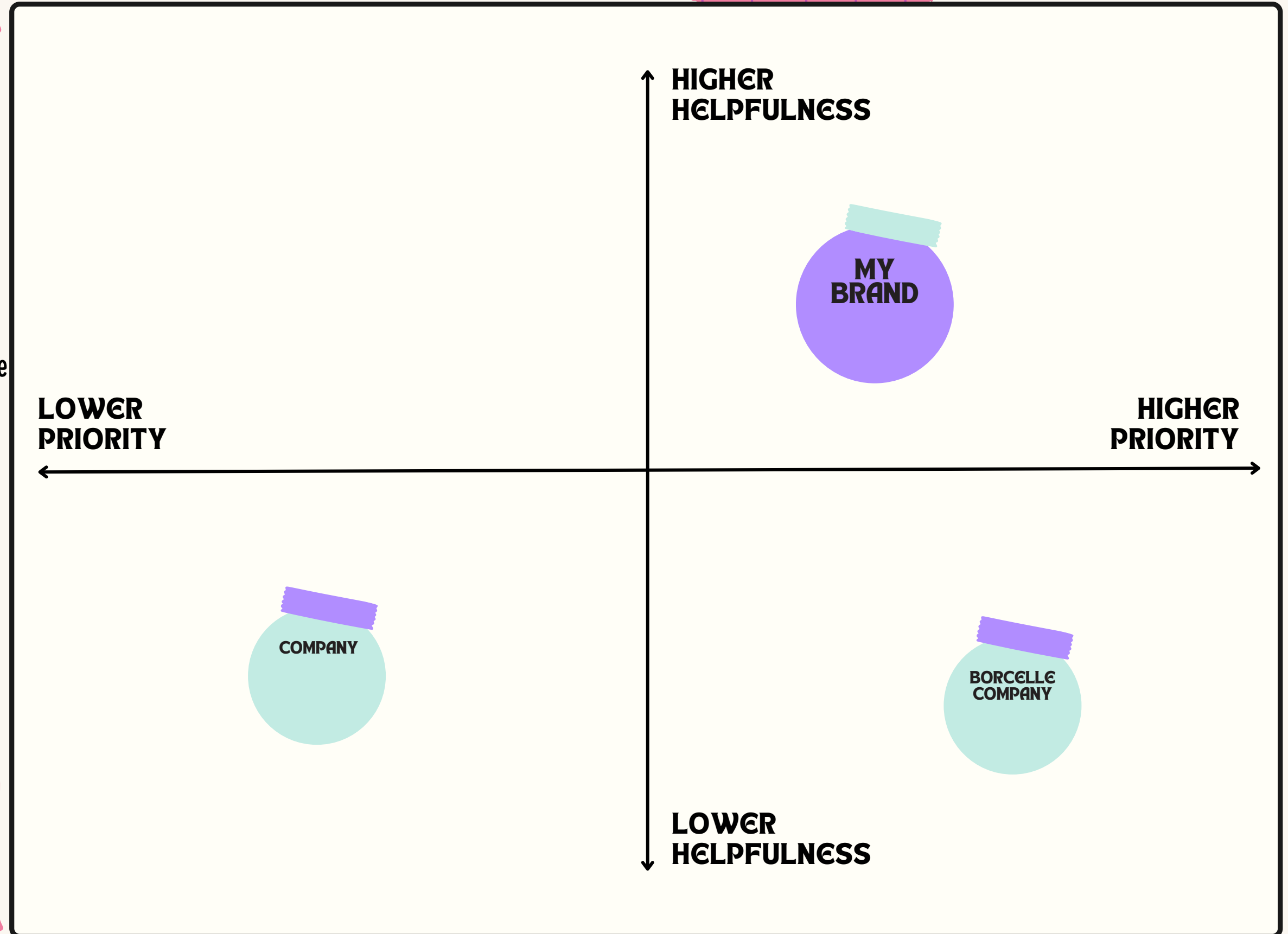
## **Element 5 AB379**

**By creating a new crime and increasing the punishment of a crime, this bill would impose a state-mandated local program.**



# POLICY ANALYSIS

- 1** Name some issues people in the sex trade face you think could be solved with these approaches
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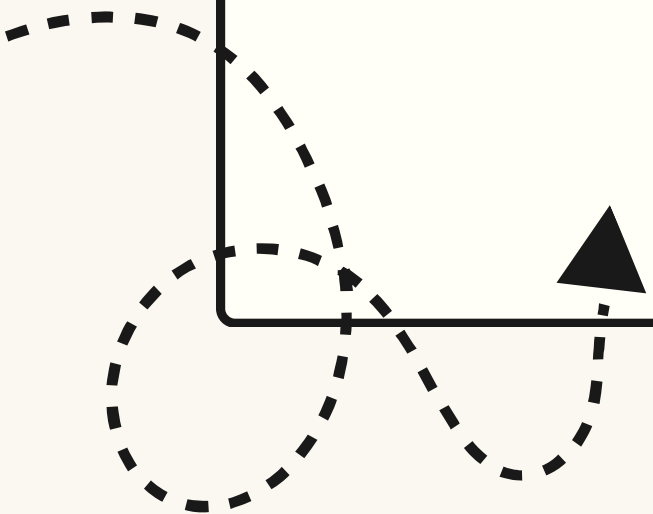
## THE BEST IDEAS

Great idea!

Awesome  
idea!

## WRONG IDEAS

Creative  
idea!



# Brainstorming

## CURRENT BILLS

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Mental Health  
Lived Experience  
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Immunity Bills  
for Minors

AB379

**PMHA**

**Jess**



- **SUMMARY**

Creates a licensure program for peer mental health providers.

- **LIVED EXPERIENCE**

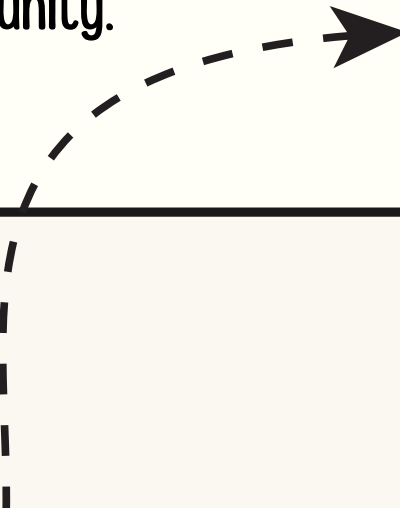
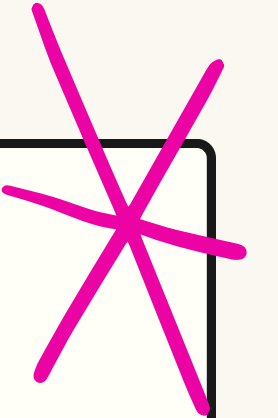
Centers Lived Experience as a valid qualifier to work in the field. Centers lived experience experts as best suited to respond to our community.

- **EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY**

Solves a workforce development problem for the state by providing more work ready people with opportunities to serve.

- **REDUCES HARM**

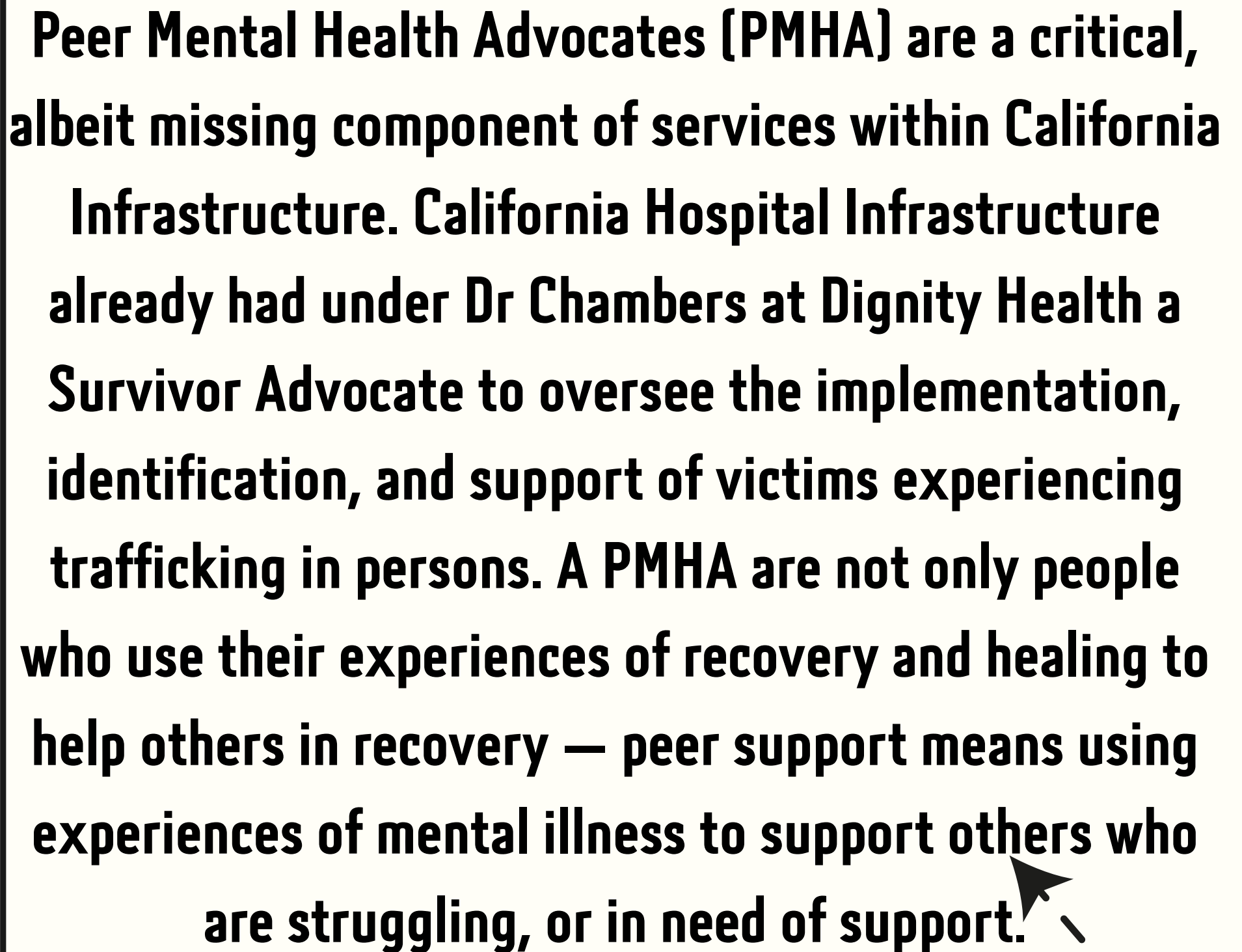
Lived experience experts will help with medication management reminders, peer support for recovery services, access to scheduling appointments, arriving to, and attending appointments, and an array of other services.







## **PMHA Bill**



**Peer Mental Health Advocates (PMHA) are a critical, albeit missing component of services within California Infrastructure. California Hospital Infrastructure already had under Dr Chambers at Dignity Health a Survivor Advocate to oversee the implementation, identification, and support of victims experiencing trafficking in persons. A PMHA are not only people who use their experiences of recovery and healing to help others in recovery — peer support means using experiences of mental illness to support others who are struggling, or in need of support.**

# Brainstorming

## CURRENT BILLS

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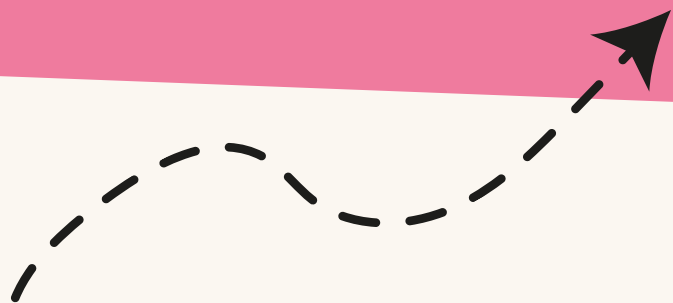
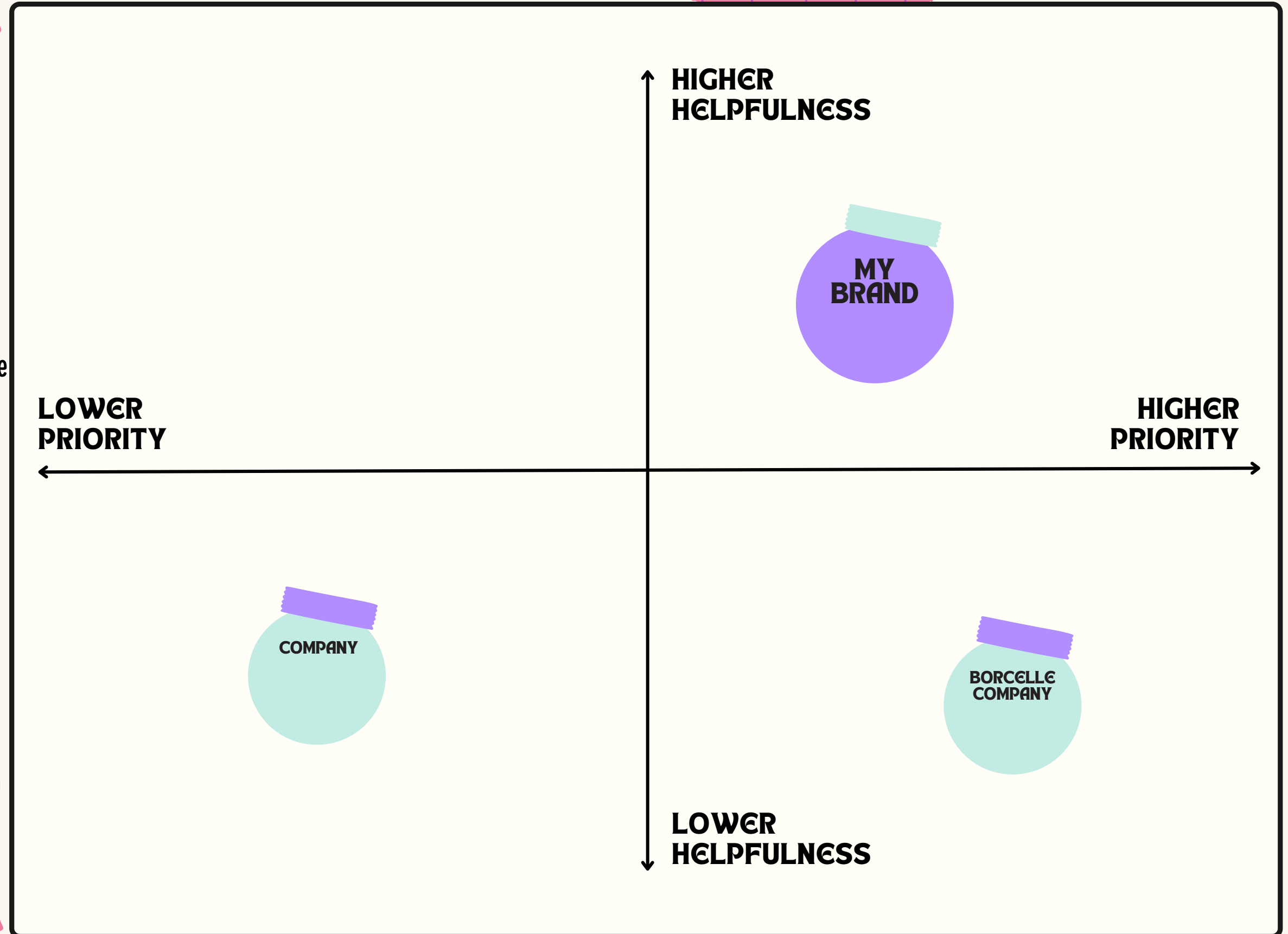
AB379

# POLICY ANALYSIS

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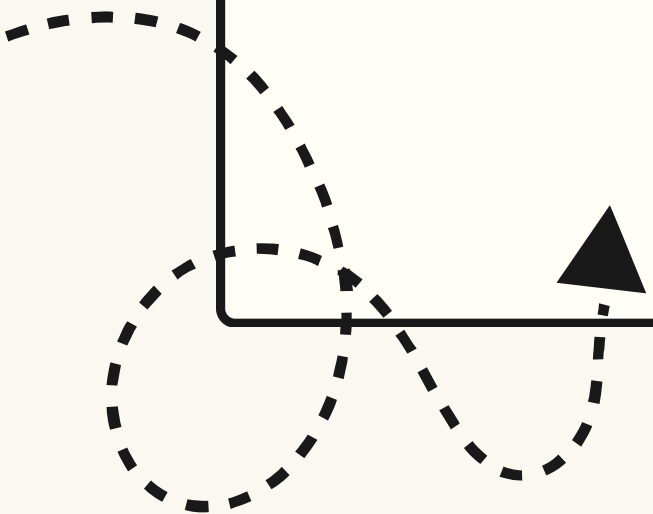
## THE BEST IDEAS

Great idea!

Awesome  
idea!

## WRONG IDEAS

Creative  
idea!



# IMMUNITY BILL

Mercy



## • JUVENILE IMMUNITY

Currently post conviction relief creates an affirmative defense to have records relief after the fact. Immunity is pre-sentencing to avoid the harm of incarceration altogether.

## • MISSION

Keep jurisdiction of crimes committed by workers in the sex industry and child under 18 trafficking survivors to the juvenile courts and implement a non prosecution policy for crimes commonly affiliated with the sex industry.

## • VALUES

Youth and children shouldn't be incarcerated and experience irreparable harm/trauma for defending themselves in the sex trade or simply surviving.

## • VISION

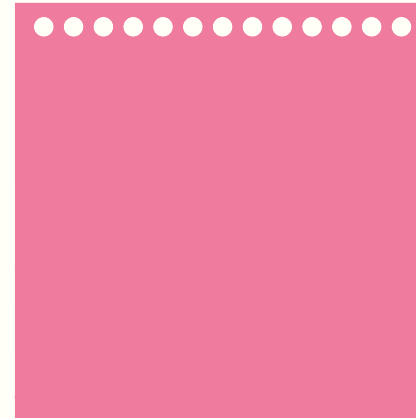
Pre-filing diversion program for youth under 18 experiencing the sex trade in any capacity to have charges diverted.



# Brainstorming

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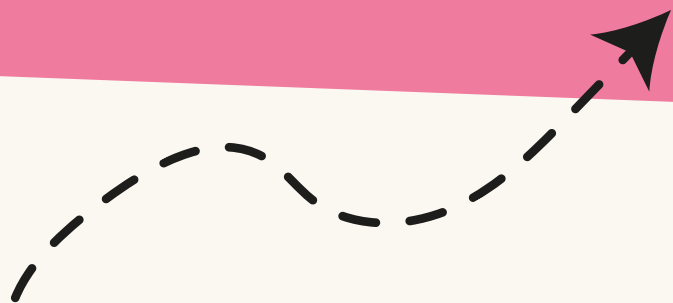
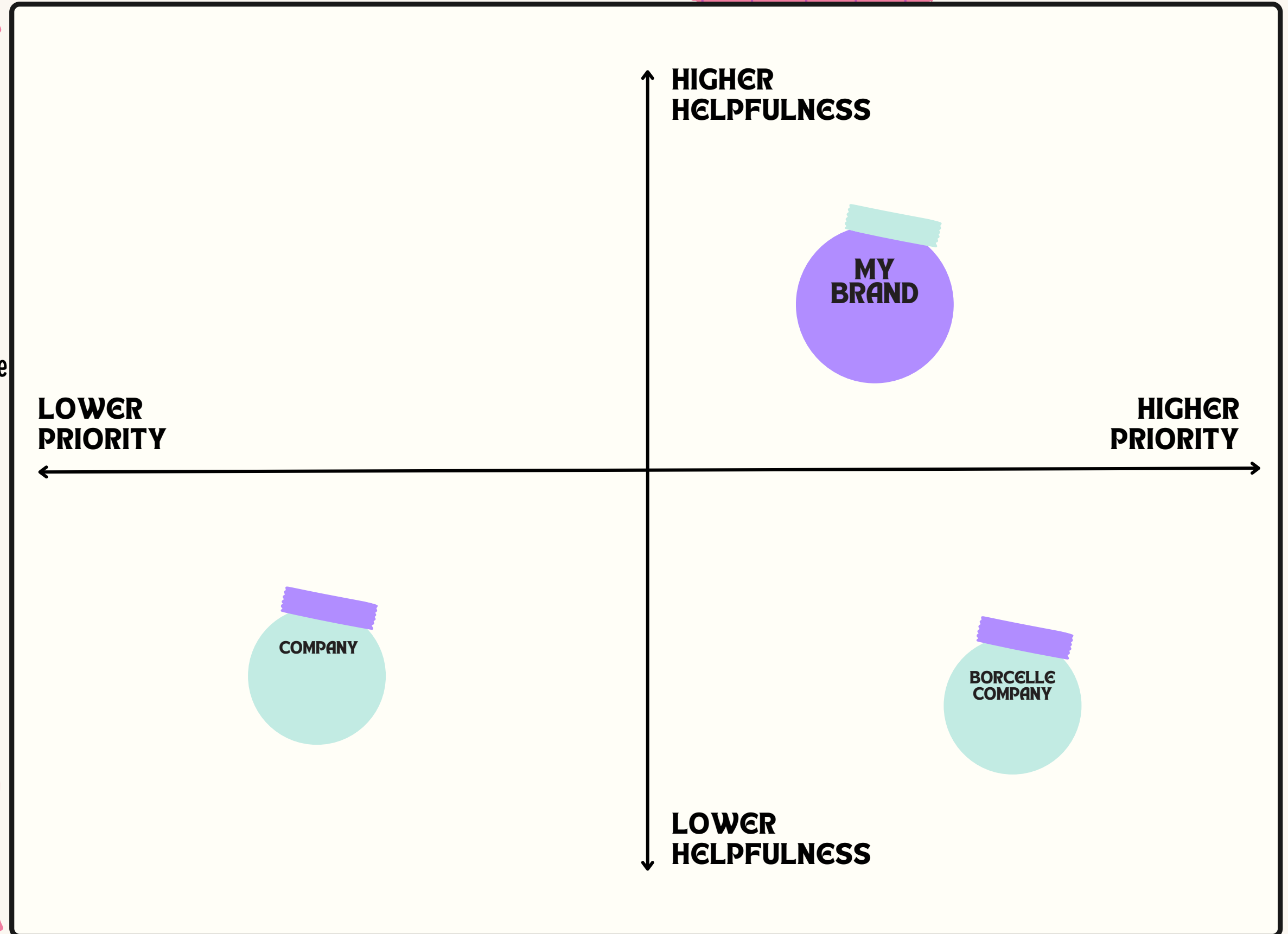


# POLICY ANALYSIS

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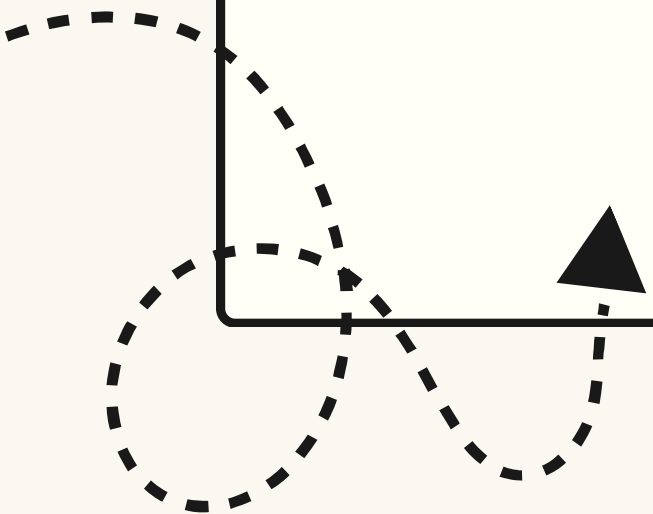
## THE BEST IDEAS

Great idea!

Awesome  
idea!

## WRONG IDEAS

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idea!





# Brainstorming

## NEW IDEAS

- 1** For every unit of critique we offer a unit of support.
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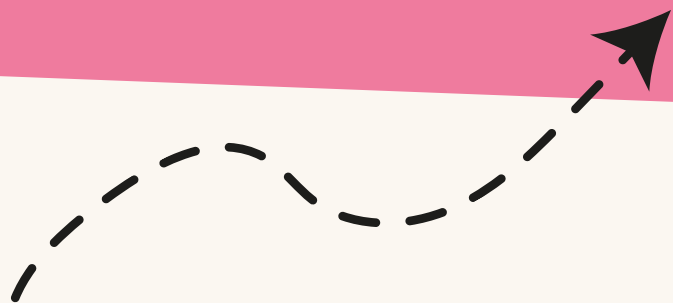
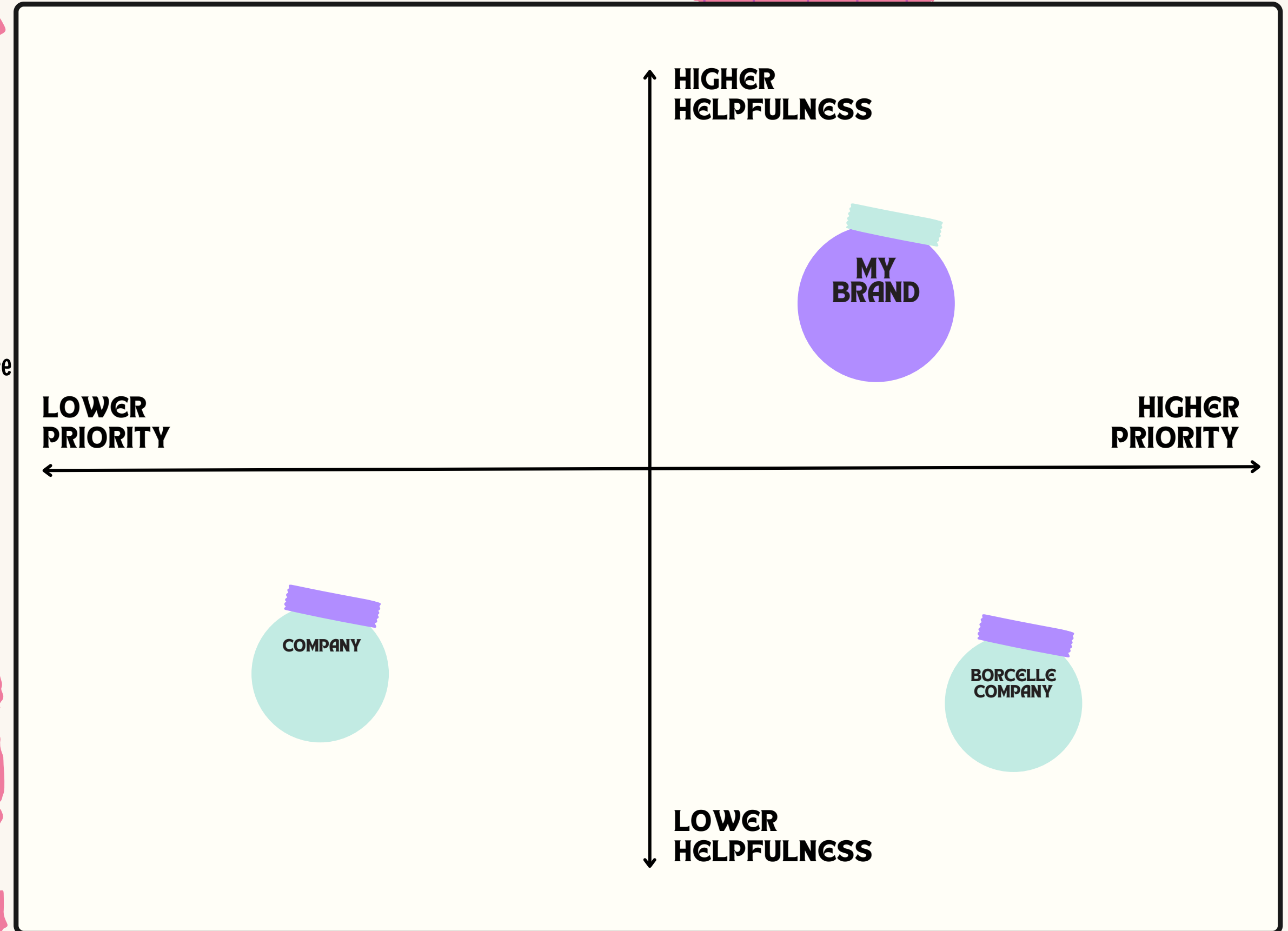
Brilliant Idea!

Amazing Idea!

Fantastic Idea!

# POLICY ANALYSIS

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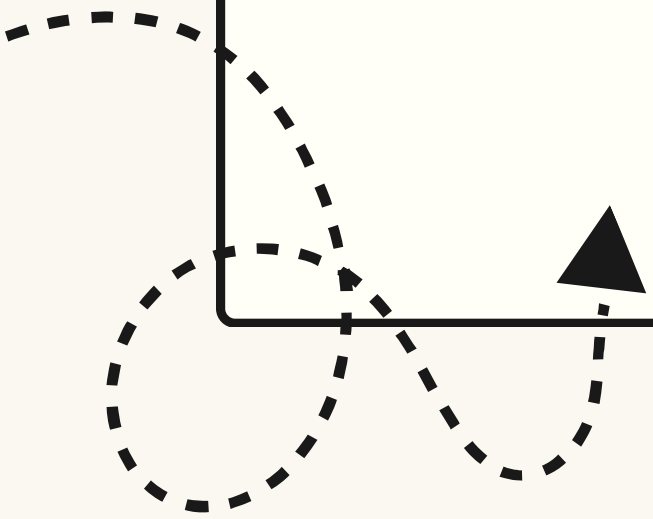
## THE BEST IDEAS

Great idea!

Awesome  
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## WRONG IDEAS

Creative  
idea!



# Tips 4 POLICY

## Handouts

- Prepare one pagers with citations for facts about what you are opposing or supporting. Train the people you are advocating with on the materials. Make it easy for people to sign on and support.

## Planning

- Prepare for meetings and map out who you want to work with, who can champion your legislation both with legislators and organizations. Introduce the bill in both the house and senate.

## Analysis

- Break down the legislation chunk by chunk into main points and have definitive reasons why it's harmful or helpful.

## Revision

- Be prepared to make concessions and be strategic about what those concessions may be and may not be.

## Collaboration

- Build collaboration with other movements and leaders to support your work. Don't do the work alone and find a team of people to support and insulate you from harm

## Presentation

- Be prepared to testify in formal hearings. Build relationships with allies who can share platform like professors, researchers, and lawyers. Have a succinct 2-3 minute spiel, 10 minutes, and 20-30 minutes for different settings.

# Take

# action!

Schedule meetings with legislators, join meetings that are already existing, testify at hearings, draft better solutions that current legislation

**1** Add an action item.

Letters  
against the  
bill.

Testify for  
hearings and ask  
poignant question  
on panels.

Write letter to  
SacBEE



**THANK  
YOU!**



[mercygray206@gmail.com](mailto:mercygray206@gmail.com)  
[standsupfightsback@gmail.com](mailto:standsupfightsback@gmail.com)