The Marshall Project tracks the impact of our journalism on lawmakers, advocates and other media. A few recent examples:

**TAKING OVER** The state of Mississippi is taking over control of the Marshall County Correctional Center, a short-staffed prison run by the for-profit Management & Training Corporation. In an investigation focused on the prison, The Marshall Project described a perverse financial incentive unique to private prisons: while having fewer workers means more danger for staff and incarcerated people, it can create more profit for companies like MTC. Our investigation showed that MTC violated its contract with the state, which stipulated a set number of guards on every shift. When a mandatory position goes unfilled, the company is required to repay the state the wages, plus a 25% penalty. State officials did little to collect those penalties, and instead continued to pay MTC for absent, or “ghost,” workers.

Days after the story was published in December 2020, the state’s auditor launched an investigation. In May 2021, the Mississippi Department of Corrections sent 43 employees to work in the prison, collectively putting in 1,700 hours over several weeks. Commissioner Burl Cain and four of his top deputies each logged 20 hours. In August, Cain announced the department would take over the prison, hire adequate staff and reduce the prison population by more than half.

**SHOW ME THE MONEY** Our investigation with NPR into agencies pocketing benefits intended for children in foster care prompted action in several places. State representatives from Nebraska to Montana to Michigan have contacted The Marshall Project to get the data on their states. Prompted by our reporting, the U.S. Congress held hearings on the issue in June, and advocates have met with the Biden administration to share our findings.

In Los Angeles, County Supervisor Hilda Solis responded to our story by co-sponsoring a motion to ban local agencies from keeping federal funds meant for foster kids. The bill, which was unanimously approved, also ensures that a no-cost, interest-bearing bank account is created for the social security benefits of each eligible youth in foster care. The Board of Supervisors also asked for data on how much is collected in Social Security benefits for foster youth and where that money goes.

**LOCKED UP FOR LIFE** In partnership with the Dallas Morning News and NBC, The Marshall Project investigated the flawed public defense system for life-without-parole cases and how, as a result, a woman named Shuranda Williams spent a year in jail without even talking to a lawyer, facing a potential sentence as serious as death. Weeks after our story was released, Williams was assigned a new lawyer and finally got her first bond hearing. The judge reduced her bond from $500,000 to $100,000, with conditions of electronic monitoring.

**PULITZER PRIZE** Our investigation into the life-altering injuries caused by police dog bites continues to have impact. There have been changes to policy in Indianapolis and Baton Rouge; states from Massachusetts to Washington have reviewed their use of police dogs; and our stories prompted a national police think tank to begin work on national guidelines for K-9 units. In June, this 12-part series won the Pulitzer Prize for National Reporting, shared among The Marshall Project and our media partners AL.com, IndyStar and the Invisible Institute. Supporting local media is one of The Marshall Project’s key objectives.
committed to succeed as whole and healthy humans... News Inside [has] been [a] supportive partner in... correcting the narrative about the successes, humanity and agency of people with criminal records.”

— Shannon Ross, Executive Director of The Community, a newsletter in Wisconsin prisons