

America Needs Police Reform

We call on Congress for strong action to address police abuse that results in murder and violence against Black people, the militarization of the police, and legislation that begins to transform policing.

America needed police reform long before November 22, 2014 when Tamir Rice was shot in a public park while he was playing with a toy gun. America needed police reform before March 13, 2020 when Breonna Taylor was killed. America needed police reform long before May 25, 2020 when George Floyd was killed when a police officer knelt on his neck for more than eight minutes.

Every member of Congress can take swift action in response to ongoing fatal and racist police killings and other violence against Black people across our country. Much of the work needs to be done at the local and state level. But federal legislation is also urgently needed.

The House has taken a good first step by approving the Justice in Policing Act (H.R. 7120). We urge Senators to pass the Senate companion (S. 3912) or legislation that includes the same provisions. Much more needs to be done, but this legislation is a good first step.

The Justice in Policing Act (H.R.7120/S.3912), developed by the Congressional Black Caucus, includes these provisions that should be part of any legislation approved by Congress:

- » **Prohibits federal, state, and local law enforcement** from racial, religious and discriminatory profiling. Mandates training and requires data collection.
- » **Raises the use of force standard** to prevent police officers from using lethal force unless all non-lethal methods have been exhausted. Requires the use of de-escalation techniques.
- » **Bans chokeholds and no-knock warrants.** Also conditions law enforcement funding for state and local governments on banning both chokeholds and no-knock warrants.
- » **Limits the transfer of military-grade equipment (1033 Program) to state and local law enforcement.**

Co-sponsor and Pass the Justice in Policing Act (H.R. 7120/S.3912)

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