August 2020

Dearest Friends,

We are in for the long haul, and we need faith to sustain us. Although we are disappointed that Congress missed opportunities to demilitarize the police in the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), we are not giving up. Despite this setback, we will persist; grounding our hope in new opportunities to reform law enforcement.

FCNL seeks a society free of racism and violence as the will of God. Continued police militarization through the Pentagon’s 1033 program, which funnels military equipment from the Pentagon to local police departments, only contributes to racist violence in our communities, undermining this vision of the world we seek. FCNL affirms the need for comprehensive reform through legislation like the Justice in Policing Act (H.R. 7120/S.3912) while also supporting efforts to limit police militarization as a step in the right direction.

Unfortunately, the Senate did not include Sen. Brian Schatz’s (HI) amendment to limit police militarization through the Pentagon’s 1033 program in the NDAA. Yet we are heartened by the unprecedented number of Republican senators who voted in favor. Moreover, we have a second chance: The House included Rep. Hank Johnson’s (GA-4) 1033 reform amendment in their version of the annual defense spending bill. We need to make sure it stays in the final legislation.

Ask your member of Congress to include Rep. Johnson’s 1033 reform amendment in the final defense spending bill as a first step towards police reform. Our country and our communities need police demilitarization now.

Please act using the accompanying letter template, call script, and this email template. Please add 2-4 sentences to your letter or email, personally letting your member know why you are concerned. Then, call the U.S. Congress at 202-224-3121 to be connected to your representative’s and senators’ offices. Leave a message if they do not pick up or if you are calling after office hours.

Your letters, emails, and phone calls to Congress matter now more than ever. This month and until the pandemic disruptions are resolved, we will send Letter Writing prompts only by email. Although not gathered in person, we ask Friends to continue sending letters and emails and calling elected officials using the materials we provide.

Please share this call to action with your community list-serv and organize virtual gatherings for collective advocacy. Learn more and get training from FCNL staff at fcnl.org/lobbyfromhome.

Ever faithfully onwards,

Bobby Trice
Quaker Engagement Associate
rtrice@fcnl.org

“It seems to me that the spiritual resources for the long haul must begin with an abiding faith that peace is the will of God.”

Ed Snyder, former FCNL Executive Secretary, 1982
Call Script

Hello, I am calling for Representative/Senator _______________________. I am a resident in [city, state] in district [number]. Please ensure that Rep. Hank Johnson’s 1033 reform amendment is included in the final defense spending bill as a first step towards police reform.

Continued police militarization through the Pentagon’s 1033 program only contributes to racist violence in our communities. Our country and our communities need police demilitarization now, and Congress must not squander the opportunity to act.

(My story)

Thank you for your consideration.

Letter/Email Template

August 2020

Dear ______________________________

Please ensure that Rep. Hank Johnson’s 1033 reform amendment is included in the final defense spending bill as a first step towards police reform. Continued police militarization through the Pentagon’s 1033 program only contributes to racist violence in our communities. Our country and our communities need police demilitarization now, and Congress must not squander the opportunity to act.

(My story)

We cannot let a defense spending bill move without provisions to demilitarize the police.

Sincerely,

(Name, Physical Address, Phone, Email)