



Friends Committee
on National Legislation

Lobbying with Quakers

March 2021

Dear Friends,

"The revolutionary aspect for me of Quakerism [is that] we have stood up against the status quo...there have been times that we haven't, let me be clear. [Racism is] still very much a part of the Religious Society of Friends. But we were the first religious group to say, 'No, we will no longer enslave people of African descent.'" -Vanessa Julye

I am grateful my tradition is alive, revolutionary, and responsive to the times we live in. Friends, we are once again called to be faithful and disrupt the status quo. Spirit's call to challenge systemic racism and police violence is clear. As FCNL's [Kameryn Point \(Lumbee/Waccamaw Siouan\)](#) wrote last week, "We don't need any more hashtags. We need major action on policing across America. We need the [Justice in Policing Act](#)."

In the last Congress, the House passed the Justice in Policing Act following widespread public outcries for racial justice and policing reform. In November 2020, more than 800 advocates joined FCNL to lobby Congress to pass the Justice in Policing Act as part of our Annual Meeting.

The bill stalled in the Senate, but we kept building momentum. And now, nine months after the police murdered George Floyd, the House has once again passed the [George Floyd Justice in Policing Act \(H.R. 1280\)](#). This is an important step to reform how police operate in 18,000 jurisdictions nationwide. If enacted, this bill would hold police accountable and save lives by banning chokeholds and no-knock warrants, limiting the transfer of military-grade weapons to local police departments, raising the standards for the use of force, and reforming qualified immunity.

[Spring Lobby Weekend 2021](#) (Mar. 20-22) is only one week away. Hundreds of students, recent graduates, Quakers, and young adults will gather online to advocate for the Justice in Policing Act and end to racist police violence. Raise your voice in accompaniment and [call on your senators to swiftly pass the meaningful police reforms included in the Justice in Policing Act \(H.R. 1280\)](#).

Please act using the accompanying letter template, call script, and this [email template](#). You can also [use our letter-to-the-editor template to submit a letter to your local paper!](#) Add 2-4 sentences letting your member know why you are personally 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. We ask Friends to continue contacting elected officials using the materials we provide. Please share this call to action with your community email lists and organize virtual gatherings for collective advocacy. Learn more and get training from FCNL staff at [fcnl.org/lobbyfromhome](#).

[Quakers took nearly a century](#) to come to unity on the abolition of slavery. Spirit is calling us to act more swiftly this time around, dear Friends.

Ever faithfully onwards,

Bobby Trice
Quaker Engagement Associate
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*PS. Join us on March 17 for a special pre-Spring Lobby Weekend **Witness Wednesday Silent Reflection: "Accompany Spring Lobby Weekend Advocates in Spirit."***

Call Script

Hello, I am calling for **Representative/Senator** _____. I am a resident of **[city, state]** in district **[number]**. I urge you to co-sponsor and pass the Justice in Policing Act. I am deeply concerned by the deaths of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and so many other Black Americans at the hands of the police. Our country and our communities need police reform now.

(My story)

We must stand together against racial injustice and work at all levels of government to build systems that repair broken policies and create a new system based on equality that honors that of God in each of us. Thank you again for your work.

Letter/Email Template

March 2021

Dear _____

I urge you to cosponsor and pass the Justice in Policing Act. Our country and our communities need police reform now. The George Floyd Justice in Policing Act is a vital step in the right direction. This bill would ban the use of choke holds, institute a national "necessary" use of lethal force standard, and end the militarization of civilian police departments. It won't solve all our problems, but if we can get it passed in the Senate, it will save lives and make policing more accountable.

(My story)

I urge you to continue your work in Congress for institutional change. Black people have been the victims of violence, even deadly violence, at the hands of police. We need federal legislation to establish a baseline of conduct across the 18,000 police jurisdictions across the country. We can't wait for individual entities to act on their own. We must stand together against racial injustice and work at all levels of government to build systems that repair broken policies and create a new system based on justice and equality. Thank you again for your work.

Sincerely,

(Name, Physical Address, Phone, Email)