National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP)

NAACP
WASHINGTON BUREAU

CRIMINAL JUSTICE

110th NAACP ANNUAL CONVENTION WHEN WE FIGHT WE WIN DETROIT, MICHIGAN JULY 20 - 24, 2019

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Criminal Justice

110th NAACP Annual Convention

WHEN WE FIGHT WE WIN
DETROIT, MICHIGAN JULY 20 - 24, 2019

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WASHINGTON BUREAU LEGISLATIVE ACTION ALERT
QUICK RESPONSE MEMBERSHIP NETWORK

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

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Do you have internet access? Yes_______ No_________
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Branch Address________________________ Branch Telephone________/ __________-
Name of Congressional Representative ________________________________
Congressional District________________________
Do you have a Political Action Chair? Yes_______ No_________
Name of Political Action Chair ______________________________________
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(Please use back page for additional comments if necessary)

You can also join our Membership Network online at www.naACP.org
DATE: Summer, 2019
TO: Concerned Parties
FROM: Hilary O. Shelton, Director, NAACP Washington Bureau

NAACP FEDERAL LEGISLATION TO BE INTRODUCED CALLING FOR THE
DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF HUMANE, SENSIBLE,
COMPREHENSIVE AND UNIFORM LAW ENFORCEMENT USE OF FORCE POLICIES
THE LAW ENFORCEMENT TRUST AND INTEGRITY ACT WOULD HELP REBUILD TRUST BETWEEN LAW
ENFORCEMENT AND THE COMMUNITIES THEY ARE HIRED TO PROTECT AND SERVE

THE ISSUE:
Police misconduct, the lack of law enforcement accountability to the communities they serve, and the fact that there are no clear and complete, national, uniform, use-of-force standards for law enforcement officers or agencies, are problems that affect every sector of our country and imperil the continued security of our nation. The fact that actions which may not be accepted or practiced in one community are regularly used in another can lead to a mistrust of law enforcement by the people they are hired to protect and serve.

There is a strong perception among Americans of all races that people of color are treated much more aggressively and with much more force than their Caucasian counterparts by law enforcement agents at all levels. We are subject to stories of police misconduct and abuse on an almost daily basis: in addition to the shooting deaths of countless racial and ethnic minority Americans, there is the beating of an 84-year-old immigrant man for allegedly jaywalking; a chokehold on a 7-month pregnant woman for barbecuing in front of her home; a young man kicked in the head while lying on the ground handcuffed; numerous people beaten for falling asleep on the subway; and a raid of Harlem housing projects. These acts of blatant, unwarranted brutality, and the increase in national media attention which they are receiving, have lead to a mistrust by members of every community. Something must be done to raise the level of accountability, or the situation will only continue to deteriorate.

The majority of law enforcement officers are hard working men and women, whose concern for the safety of those they are charged with protecting and serving is paramount, even when their own safety is on the line. The NAACP recognizes that every day, law enforcement officers face danger, sometimes life threatening, while carrying out their responsibilities. However, if and when even one of their colleagues engages in biased behavior, whether it be conscious or subconscious, the trust of the entire community can be, and will be, lost. When dealing with a dangerous—or unpredictable—situation, police officers usually have very little time to assess it and determine the proper response. Here, good training can enable the officer to react properly to the threat or possible threat and respond with the appropriate tactics to address the situation, possibly including some level of force, if necessary, given the circumstances.

The Law Enforcement Trust and Integrity Act provides incentives for local police organizations to adopt performance-based standards to ensure that incidents of misconduct will be minimized through appropriate management, training and oversight protocols and that if such incidents do occur, that they will be properly investigated. By doing this, not only would we be building trust between law enforcement and the communities they serve, we would also be providing police officers with the tools necessary to work with their communities and to enhance their professional growth and education. In fact, it would be saving lives. We are hopeful that our champions will introduce the Law Enforcement Trust and Integrity Act soon in both the U.S. House and the U.S. Senate.

We are currently faced with a hodge-podge of policies in the use-of-force when apprehending a suspect, and the result can be lead to an uneven reputation of law enforcement, not to mention the needless injury or death of a suspect. In order for the criminal justice system in America to work, we must act now to build trust between law enforcement and the communities they serve.
**THE ACTION WE NEED YOU TO TAKE:**
Contact your Representative and both your Senators and **URGE THEM TO SUPPORT THE LAW ENFORCEMENT TRUST AND INTEGRITY ACT.** To contact your Senators and Representative, you may:

- **Make a Phone Call:**
  Call your Senators and your Representative in Washington by dialing the Capitol Switchboard and asking to be transferred to your Senators'/Congressman’s offices. The switchboard phone number is **(202) 224-3121** (see message section, below).

- **Write a Letter**
  To write letters to your Senators, send them to:
  The Honorable (name of Senator)
  U.S. Senate
  Washington, D.C. 20510
  To write a letter to your Representative, send it to:
  The Honorable (name of Representative)
  U.S. House of Representatives
  Washington, D.C. 20515

- **Send a Fax**
  If you would like to send a fax, call your Senators' or Representative’s offices (through the Capitol switchboard) and ask for their fax numbers (you can use either the attached sample letter or the message box, below).

- **Send an E-Mail**
  To send an e-mail to your Senators, go to www.senate.gov; click on “Find Your Senators”. Look up your Senators by state; go to their web sites for e-mail addresses.
  To send an e-mail to your Representative, go to www.house.gov, and click on “Write Your Representative” (on the left hand side, just under “find your Representative”). This will help you identify who your congressman is and how to contact him/her.

**REMEMBER TO CONTACT BOTH YOUR SENATORS!!!!!**

**THE MESSAGE**

- Police misconduct, the lack of law enforcement accountability to the communities they serve, and the fact that there are no national, uniform, use-of-force standards for law enforcement officers or agencies, are problems that affect every sector of our country and imperils the continued security of our nation.

- The **Law Enforcement Trust and Integrity Act** provides incentives for local police organizations to adopt performance-based standards to ensure that incidents of misconduct will be minimized through appropriate management, training and oversight protocols and that if such incidents do occur, that they will be properly investigated.

- We are currently faced with a hodge-podge of policies in the use-of-force when apprehending a suspect, and the result can be lead to an uneven reputation of law enforcement, not to mention the needless injury or death of a suspect.

- In order for the criminal justice system in America to work, we must act now to build trust between law enforcement and the communities they serve.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION TO THIS IMPORTANT MATTER!!!**
If you have any questions, call Hilary Shelton at the Washington Bureau at (202) 463-2940.

**MEMBERSHIP IS POWER! JOIN THE NAACP TODAY.**
To become an NAACP member or to sign up for e-mail legislative and press updates, visit www.naACP.org
(date)

The Honorable ______________________
United States Senate / House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20510 / 20515

RE: STRONG SUPPORT FOR THE LAW ENFORCEMENT TRUST AND INTEGRITY ACT

Dear Senator / Representative ____________________________;

As your constituent, I am deeply concerned about the lack of standardized, uniform, use-of-force standards for law enforcement. Police misconduct, the lack of law enforcement accountability to the communities they serve, and the fact that there are no national, uniform, use-of-force standards for law enforcement officers or agencies, are problems that affect every sector of our country and imperils the continued security of our nation. The fact that actions which may not be accepted or practiced in one community are regularly used in another can lead to a mistrust of law enforcement by the people they are hired to protect and serve.

The Law Enforcement Trust and Integrity Act, to be introduced later in the 116th Congress provides incentives for local police organizations to adopt performance-based standards to ensure that incidents of misconduct will be minimized through appropriate management, training and oversight protocols and that if such incidents do occur, that they will be properly investigated. Good training can enable the officer to react properly to the threat or possible threat and respond with the appropriate tactics to address the situation, possibly including some level of force, if necessary, given the circumstances.

This vital legislation is important for us to restore the faith and trust that is so essential to effective law enforcement. We are currently faced with a hodge-podge of policies in the use-of-force when apprehending a suspect, and the result can be lead to an uneven reputation of law enforcement, not to mention the needless injury or death of a suspect. In order for the criminal justice system in America to work, we must act now to build trust between law enforcement and the communities they serve. I strongly urge you to be an original co-sponsor of this crucial legislation.

I look forward to hearing of your work on this issue and to your letting me know what more I can do to advance this issue. Thank you again.

Sincerely,

(sign and print your name and remember to include your address)

Remember to contact your Representative and BOTH your Senators.
DATE: Summer, 2019
TO: Concerned Parties
FROM: Hilary O. Shelton, Director, Washington Bureau

THE END RACIAL AND RELIGIOUS PROFILING ACT
WILL PROTECT AFRICAN AMERICANS AND OTHER RACIAL, ETHNIC, AND RELIGIOUS MINORITIES FROM BIASED TREATMENT BY LAW ENFORCEMENT

LEGISLATION WOULD CREATE A NATIONAL PROHIBITION AGAINST RACIAL AND RELIGIOUS PROFILING BY LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES AND PROVIDE TRAINING

THE ISSUE:
The End Racial and Religious Profiling Act will be introduced in the U.S. House and the U.S. Senate later this summer.

The End Racial and Religious Profiling Act comprehensively addresses the insidious practice of biased treatment by law enforcement because of who you are, which God you worship, or who you are perceived to be. Specifically, the legislation addresses bias policing on five levels: first, it clearly defines the discriminatory practice of profiling by law enforcement at all levels; second, it creates a federal prohibition against profiling; thirdly, it mandates data collection so we can fully assess the true extent of the problem; fourth, it provides funding for the retraining of law enforcement officials on how to discontinue and prevent the use of profiling; and fifth, it holds law enforcement agencies that continue to use profiling accountable.

Profiling is a serious, and often painful, problem in the United States, and can lead to deadly consequences. It is difficult for our faith in the American criminal justice system not to be challenged when we cannot walk down the street, drive down an interstate, or go through an airport without being stopped merely because of the color of our skin, who we are perceived to be, which God (if any) we chose to worship, or what we chose to wear. Training law enforcement officers on how to more effectively carry out essential policing without using this counter-productive procedure will not only help our nation’s criminal justice system at all levels, but it will also trickle down to other unofficial security groups as well, such as neighborhood watch organizations and citizens’ community groups, which often model themselves after their local police.

The majority of law enforcement officers are hard working men and women, whose concern for the safety of those they are charged with protecting and serving is often paramount, even when their own safety is on the line. However, if and when even one of their colleagues engages in profiling, whether it be conscious or subconscious, the trust of the entire community can be, and will be, lost. Law enforcement agents should not endorse or act upon stereotypes, attitudes, or beliefs that a person’s race, ethnicity, appearance, religious affiliation, sexual orientation, or national origin increases that person’s general propensity to act unlawfully.

Numerous studies have demonstrated over the past few years that racial and religious profiling is all too prevalent throughout law enforcement today. Furthermore, research shows that racial and religious profiling diverts officers’ attention from using actual, objective signs of suspicious behavior to effectively assess situations. As far back as February, 2009, a study of traffic stops and searches in West Virginia found a distinct pattern of racial profiling. The data revealed that African-American motorists were almost twice as likely to be stopped than White drivers. Hispanics were 1.48 times more likely to be stopped. After the traffic stop, non-Whites were more likely to be arrested, yet police in West Virginia obtained a significantly higher contraband hit rate for White drivers than minorities.

We need the End Racial and Religious Profiling Act to stop this insidious practice and to help begin to restore the confidence of communities throughout the United States in federal, state and local law enforcement and thus restore the trust and integrity necessary to be effective.
THE ACTION WE NEED YOU TO TAKE:
Contact your U.S. Senators and your Representative and ask that they serve as original co-sponsors of the END RACIAL AND RELIGIOUS PROFILING ACT. To contact your Senators and Representative you should:

✓ **Make a Phone Call:**
   Call your Senators and your Representative in Washington by dialing the Capitol Switchboard and asking to be transferred to your Senators/Congressman’s offices. The switchboard phone number is (202) 224-3121 (see message section, below).

✓ **Write a Letter**
   If you choose to write letters to your Senators, send them to:
   The Honorable (name of Senator)
   U.S. Senate
   Washington, D.C. 20510

   If you choose to write a letter to your Representative, send it to:
   The Honorable (name of Representative)
   U.S. House of Representatives
   Washington, D.C. 20515

✓ **Send a Fax**
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✓ **Send an E-Mail**
   To send an e-mail to your Senators, simply go to [www.senate.gov](http://www.senate.gov), click on Senators, then click on Contacting Senators (by name or by state). This selection will also help you to identify who your two senators are.
   To send an e-mail to your Representative, go to [www.house.gov](http://www.house.gov), and click on “write your representative.” This will help you identify who your Representative is and how to contact him/her.

**PLEASE REMEMBER TO CONTACT BOTH OF YOUR SENATORS!**

THE MESSAGE:

♦ We need this important legislation which takes concrete steps to put an end to the insidious practice of profiling by law enforcement at all levels.

♦ As painfully and more publically discussed in recent months, profiling is a serious problem in the United States, and can lead to deadly consequences.

♦ It is difficult for our faith in the American judicial system not to be challenged when we cannot walk down the street, drive down an interstate, or go through an airport, without being stopped merely because of who we are, which God we chose to worship (if any), or who we are perceived to be.

♦ The “End Racial and Religious Profiling Act” not only clearly defines this insidious practice, but it also prohibits profiling and collects data to fully assess the extent of the problem. It also provides training and other incentives for states and local governments to actively pursue policies to eliminate it and the legislation punishes those in law enforcement who continue to use it.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION TO THIS IMPORTANT MATTER!!!
If you have any questions, call Hilary Shelton at the Washington Bureau at (202) 463-2940.

**MEMBERSHIP IS POWER! JOIN THE NAACP TODAY.**
For more information, call your local NAACP branch or visit [www.naacc.org](http://www.naacc.org)
(date)

The Honorable
United State Senate / House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20510 / 20515

RE: SUPPORT FOR LEGISLATION TO PUT AN END TO PROFILING BY LOCAL, STATE, AND FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT

Dear Senator / Representative ________________________________;

As your constituent, I am writing to urge you to support and be an original co-sponsor of the "End Racial and Religious Profiling Act" in the Senate and in the House. This important legislation takes concrete steps to put an end to the insidious practice of racial profiling at the federal, state and local levels.

As painfully and more publically discussed in recent months, profiling is a serious problem in the United States, and can lead to deadly consequences. It is difficult for our faith in the American judicial system not to be challenged when we cannot walk down the street, drive down an interstate, or travel through an airport without being stopped merely because of whom we are or who we are perceived to be. Training law enforcement officers how to more efficiently carry out the essential policing without avoid using this counter-productive procedure will not only help our nation's criminal justice system at all levels, but it will trickle down to other groups as well, such as neighborhood watch organizations and citizens' community groups, which often model themselves after their local police and which have taken on additional responsibilities in light of the budget cuts being faced by almost every locality and jurisdiction.

The majority of law enforcement officers are hard working men and women, whose concern for the safety of those they are charged with protecting is often paramount, even when their own safety is on the line. However, if and when even one of their colleagues engages in the practice of profiling, whether it be conscious or subconscious, the trust of the entire community can be, and will be, lost. Law enforcement agents should not endorse or act upon stereotypes, attitudes, or beliefs that a person's race, ethnicity, appearance, religious affiliation, sexual orientation, or national origin increases that person's general propensity to act unlawfully.

As I said earlier, I hope that you will be an original co-sponsor of and support this legislation and that you will help address the very serious problem of racial profiling. Please let me know what you intend to do, and what I can do to help you in this fight. Thank you in advance for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

(sign and print your name and remember to include your address)
ISSUE ALERT

DATE: Summer, 2019
TO: Concerned Parties
FROM: Hilary O. Shelton, Director, Washington Bureau

A REVIEW OF PROSECUTORIAL PROCESSES AND PRACTICES IS NECESSARY TO DETERMINE, AND TO BEGIN TO ADDRESS, RACIAL AND ETHNIC DISPARITIES IN THE TREATMENT OF PEOPLE INVOLVED IN THE JUDICIAL SYSTEM.

THE ISSUE:
Prosecutors are hired to seek criminal convictions for the city, state or nation. Prosecutors, not judges, have the power and discretion to determine when to convene a grand jury investigation and which evidence to present to the grand jury; which charge to bring; whether or not to accept or deny a plea bargain; to reward or deny a defendant’s substantial assistance or cooperation in the prosecution of someone else; and ultimately, to determine the final sentence to be sought for a defendant. With the advent of mandatory minimum sentences, it is often the prosecutor, not a judge, who determines the sentence length when a person is convicted.

The NAACP supports the establishment of federal, state and local jurisdictions programs to create local advisory groups charged with collecting and analyzing racial and ethnic minority data on charging, plea negotiations, sentencing recommendations and other factors which may have contributed to the over-incarceration and sentencing disparities of racial and ethnic minority Americans. Such programs would monitor patterns and practices of prosecutors and document discriminatory trends at every stage of the criminal proceedings.

It is difficult for Americans of any color to have faith and confidence in our nation’s judicial system when we know from experience that we are treated differently, and more often more severely, because of the color of our skin. This lack of confidence in turn, makes us not only distrustful of the system at every level, but also makes it much less likely that we can trust or are willing to cooperate with the very people and institutions who are charged with protecting our safety and ensuring that our Constitutional rights are upheld.

In order to fully understand and manage a problem, you must first measure it. The establishment of panels to review and assess prosecutors is a necessary step in the struggle for equal justice.

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ISSUE ALERT

DATE:     Summer, 2019
TO:       Concerned Parties
FROM:     Hilary O. Shelton, Director, NAACP Washington Bureau

NAACP CALLS FOR THE EXPANSION OF VIDEO SURVEILLANCE OF LAW ENFORCEMENT
IMPLEMENTATION OF LAW ENFORCEMENT VIDEO SURVEILLANCE MUST INCLUDE CIVIL RIGHTS AND CIVIL LIBERTIES PROTECTIONS

THE ISSUE:
Mobile cameras operated by law enforcement may play a valuable role in the present and future of policing, and are increasing in popularity. Whether they’re worn by an officer or mounted on police equipment including guns, tasers, or the dashboard of police cruisers, cameras could help provide transparency into law enforcement practices, by providing first-hand evidence of public interactions. But police-operated cameras, though crucial, must also come equipped with civil rights and civil liberties protections. They are no substitute for broader reforms of policing practices. In fact, cameras could be used to intensify disproportionate surveillance and enforcement in heavily policed racial and ethnic minority communities. Without carefully crafted policy safeguards in place, there is a real risk that these new and enhanced devices could become instruments of injustice, rather than tools for accountability.

To help ensure that police-operated cameras are used to enhance civil rights without infringing upon civil liberties, law makers and law enforcement agencies must:

• **Develop camera policies in public** with the input of civil rights advocates and the local community. Current policies must always be publicly available, and any policy changes must also be made in consultation with the community;

• **Commit to a set of narrow and well-defined purposes** for which cameras and their footage may be used. In particular, facial recognition and other biometric technologies must be carefully limited: if they are used together with body cameras, officers will have far greater visibility into heavily policed communities—where cameras will be abundant—than into other communities where cameras will be rare. Such technologies could amplify existing disparities in law enforcement across communities;

• **Specify clear operational policies for recording, retention, and access**, and enforce strict disciplinary protocols for policy violations. While some types of law enforcement interactions (e.g., when attending to victims of domestic violence) may happen off-camera, the vast majority of interactions with the public—including all that involve the use of force—should be captured on video. Departments must also adopt systems to monitor and audit access to recorded footage, and secure footage against unauthorized access and tampering;

• **Make footage available to promote accountability** with appropriate privacy safeguards in place. At a minimum: (1) footage that captures police use of force should be made available to the public and press upon request, and (2) upon request, footage should be made available in a timely manner to any filmed subject seeking to file a complaint, to criminal defendants, and to the next-of-kin of anyone whose death is related to the events captured on video. Departments must consider individual privacy concerns before making footage available to broad audiences; and

• **Preserve the independent evidentiary value of officer reports** by prohibiting officers from viewing footage before filing their reports. Footage of an event presents a partial—and sometimes misleading—perspective of how events unfolded. Pre-report viewing could cause an officer to conform the report to what the video appears to show, rather than what the officer actually saw.

The NAACP supports legislation to make funding for all types of cameras available to law enforcement agencies on the condition that the agencies put safeguards into place to protect the rights and liberties of those who they are charged with protecting and serving.
THE ACTION WE NEED YOU TO TAKE:
Contact your Representative and both your Senators and URGE THEM TO SUPPORT LEGISLATION TO MAKE FUNDING FOR VIDEO SURVEILLANCE AVAILABLE TO LOCAL AUTHORITIES AS LONG AS POLICIES ARE IN PLACE TO ASSURE THAT THE CIVIL RIGHTS AND CIVIL LIBERTIES OF THE POPULATIONS SERVED ARE PROTECTED. To contact your Senators and Representative, you may:

✓ Make a Phone Call:
Call your Senators and your Representative in Washington by dialing the Capitol Switchboard and asking to be transferred to your Senators'/Congressman’s offices. The switchboard phone number is (202) 224-3121 (see message section, below).

✓ Write a Letter
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To write a letter to your Representative, send it to:
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Washington, D.C. 20515

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REMEMBER TO CONTACT BOTH YOUR SENATORS!!!!!

THE MESSAGE
- Mobile cameras operated by law enforcement may play a valuable role in the present and future of policing, but if put into place without appropriate civil rights and civil liberties safeguards they can also be used to intensify disproportionate surveillance and enforcement in heavily policed racial and ethnic minority communities. Without carefully crafted policy safeguards in place, there is a real risk that these new devices could become instruments of injustice, rather than tools for accountability.

- Police-operated cameras are no substitute for broader reforms of policing practices.

- Funding for video surveillance of law enforcement activities, whether it be for body cams, gun cams, taser cams, or dashboard cams, should come with a requirement policies are enacted to protect civil liberties.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION TO THIS IMPORTANT MATTER!!!
If you have any questions, call Hilary Shelton at the Washington Bureau at (202) 463-2940.

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(date)

The Honorable ________________________________  
United States Senate / House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20510 / 20515  

RE: CIVIL LIBERTIES PROTECTIONS A KEY COMPONENT OF FUNDING FOR VIDEO SURVEILLANCE BY LAW ENFORCEMENT

Dear Senator / Representative __________________________;

As your constituent, I strongly urge you to support the inclusion of civil rights and civil liberties' protections by local jurisdictions who are seeking funding for the purchase of video surveillance equipment, such as body cam, gun cam, taser cam, or dash cam. Mobile cameras operated by law enforcement may play a valuable role in the present and future of policing, but if put into place without appropriate safeguards they can also be used to intensify disproportionate surveillance and enforcement in heavily policed racial and ethnic minority communities. Without carefully crafted policy safeguards in place, there is a lack of civil rights and civil liberties accountability.

Specific protections include:

- **The development of camera policies in public** with the input of civil rights and civil liberties advocates and the local community. Current policies must always be publicly available, and any policy changes must also be made in consultation with the community;

- **A commitment to a set of narrow and well-defined purposes** for which cameras and their footage may be used. In particular, facial recognition and other biometric technologies must be carefully limited;

- **The agency must specify clear operational policies for recording, retention, and access, and enforce strict disciplinary protocols for policy violations**;

- **Law enforcement agencies must make footage available to promote accountability with appropriate privacy safeguards in place; and**

- **Agencies must preserve the independent evidentiary value of officer reports** by prohibiting officers from viewing footage before filing their reports.

Police-operated cameras are no substitute for broader reforms of policing practices. They can, however, when used properly provide us with a valuable tool to increase accountability. I therefore again, urge you in the strongest terms possible, to support extra funding for law enforcement agencies to acquire and implement video surveillance equipment once they have the appropriate safeguards in place for its use.

Thank you in advance for your attention to my concerns; I look forward to hearing from you as soon as possible to learn what you are doing to promote law enforcement accountability. I also look forward to any suggestions you may have as to what I can do to help you in this endeavor.

Sincerely,

(sign and print your name and remember to include your address)

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**Remember to contact your Representative and BOTH your Senators.**
Mobile cameras operated by law enforcement may play a valuable role in the present and future of policing. Whether they’re worn by an officer or mounted on police equipment, cameras could help provide transparency into law enforcement practices, by providing first-hand evidence of public interactions.

But police-operated cameras are no substitute for broader reforms of policing practices. In fact, cameras could be used to intensify disproportionate surveillance and enforcement in heavily policed communities of color. Without carefully crafted policy safeguards in place, there is a real risk that these new devices could become instruments of injustice, rather than tools for accountability.

To help ensure that police-operated cameras are used to enhance civil rights, departments must:

1. **Develop camera policies in public** with the input of civil rights advocates and the local community. Current policies must always be publicly available, and any policy changes must also be made in consultation with the community.

2. **Commit to a set of narrow and well-defined purposes** for which cameras and their footage may be used. In particular, facial recognition and other biometric technologies must be carefully limited: if they are used together with body cameras, officers will have far greater visibility into heavily policed communities—where cameras will be abundant—than into other communities where cameras will be rare. Such technologies could amplify existing disparities in law enforcement across communities.

3. **Specify clear operational policies for recording, retention, and access**, and enforce strict disciplinary protocols for policy violations. While some types of law enforcement interactions (e.g., when attending to victims of domestic violence) may happen off-camera, the vast majority of interactions with the public—including all that involve the use of force—should be captured on video. Departments must also adopt systems to monitor and audit access to recorded footage, and secure footage against unauthorized access and tampering.

4. **Make footage available to promote accountability** with appropriate privacy safeguards in place. At a minimum: (1) footage that captures police use of force should be made available to the public and press upon request, and (2) upon request, footage should be made available in a timely manner to any filmed subject seeking to file a complaint, to criminal defendants, and to the next-of-kin of anyone whose death is related to the events captured on video. Departments must consider individual privacy concerns before making footage available to broad audiences.

**Preserve the independent evidentiary value of officer reports** by prohibiting officers from viewing footage before filing their reports. Footage of an event presents a partial—and sometimes misleading—perspective of how events unfolded. Pre-report viewing could cause an officer to conform the report to what the video appears to show, rather than what the officer actually saw.
DATE: Summer, 2019
TO: Concerned Parties
FROM: Hilary O. Shelton, Director, Washington Bureau

CIVILIAN POLICING ACCOUNTABILITY REVIEW BOARDS WOULD ALLOW COMMUNITIES TO HAVE MORE OF A BALANCE OF POWER IN LAW ENFORCEMENT BEHAVIOR IN THE NEIGHBORHOODS

THE ISSUE:
We must restore and give power to local communities over the agencies which are meant to “protect and serve.” The NAACP therefore strongly supports the establishment of civilian accountability review boards for every local, state, and even federal law enforcement agency.

While the exact composition of these Boards should be determined by the needs and the make-up of the community being served, in order to be effective they must all have the following characteristics:

- The review board must be independent in that it will have the power to conduct hearings, subpoena witnesses and report findings and recommendations to the public and it shall be housed away from police headquarters to maintain credibility;
- It needs to be relevant in that it will have the power to independently investigate incidents and issue findings on complaints; it will be able to spot problem policies and provide a forum for developing reforms; an effective review board must have complete access to police witnesses and documents through legal mandate and subpoena power; the Board will publish, on a periodic basis, statistical reports which detail trends in allegations, to help identify officers or who of practices which are subjects of unusually numerous complaints; and Board findings will be considered in determining appropriate disciplinary action. The Civilian Board will also have the capacity to compel prosecutors offices to bring charges against police officers to a panel or Grand Jury to try the case;
- Finally, an effective Civilian Review Board will be reflective of the racial and ethnic make-up of the community in that the Board and staff will be broadly representative of the community it serves.

The Review Board must consistently be adequately funded to fulfill the obligations laid out above; it should not be a lower budget priority than police internal affairs systems.

TEN PRINCIPLES NECESSARY FOR A STRONG CIVILIAN REVIEW BOARD ARE ON THE FOLLOWING PAGE

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TEN PRINCIPLES FOR AN EFFECTIVE CIVILIAN REVIEW BOARD

1. **Independence.** The power to conduct hearings, subpoena witnesses and report findings and recommendations to the public.

2. **Investigatory Power.** The authority to independently investigate incidents and issue findings on complaints.

3. **Mandatory Police Cooperation.** Complete access to police witnesses and documents through legal mandate or subpoena power.

4. **Adequate Funding.** Should not be a lower budget priority than police internal affairs systems.

5. **Hearings.** Essential for solving credibility questions and enhancing public confidence in process.

6. **Reflect Community Diversity.** Board and staff should be broadly representative of the community it serves.

7. **Policy Recommendations.** Civilian oversight can spot problem policies and provide a forum for developing reforms.

8. **Statistical Analysis.** Public statistical reports can detail trends in allegations, and early warning systems can identify officers who are subjects of unusually numerous complaints.

9. **Separate Offices.** Should be housed away from police headquarters to maintain independence and credibility with public.

10. **Disciplinary Role.** Board findings should be considered in determining appropriate disciplinary action
ISSUE BRIEF

NAACP URGES CONGRESS TO PASS SAFE AND SENSIBLE GUN SAFETY LEGISLATION TO HELP PREVENT MASS KILLINGS AND GUN RELATED HOMICIDES OF AMERICAN CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

THE ISSUE:

Easy access to guns are a major and deadly problem in the United States today. In 2017, every day, on average more than 42 Americans were killed by gun violence; there were more than 31,000 firearm-related injuries that year. That same year, almost 4,000 American children younger than age 17 were either killed or injured by a gun. From mass shootings to street shootings, gun homicides today are a common cause of death in the United States, killing about as many people as car crashes. “Survivors” of gun violence are often crippled, with many in constant pain; children are left as orphans; whole communities terrorized and scarred; and parents and families members are left broken and destroyed.

Gun violence disproportionately impacts communities of color in the United States. Gun violence is the number one killer of African Americans aged 15 to 34. Despite the fact that African Americans make up only 13% of the U.S. population, we represent nearly 50% of all gun homicide victims. Over 80% of gun deaths of African Americans are homicides. 49% of deaths of African-American males between ages 15 and 19 are homicides — more than the next nine leading causes of death combined. Their white counterparts die from homicides in less than 8% of deaths. Nearly 70% of all homicides in 2014 were “firearm homicides,” which means that roughly 34% of African-American males who die between the ages of 15 and 19 are killed by a gun.

Given the disproportionate damage gun violence is having on our communities, the NAACP has advocated for a number of sane, sensible laws which will help eliminate or decrease the damage and death caused by gun violence. We strongly support several sensible proposals which together will do a lot to help keep dangerous firearms off our streets and out of the hands of those who should not have access to them. These measures include:

- Requiring universal background checks on all gun sales and transfers;
- Ban military-style semi-automatic assault guns and military high capacity ammunition clips;
- Enact tough new criminal penalties for straw purchasers and gun traffickers;
- Ban suspects on the terror watch list from purchasing firearms;
- Provide funding for the Center for Disease Control to research gun violence as a major public health issue;
- Incentivize and assist states in improving their overall reporting to the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS);
- Maintain current law requiring background checks and permits for gun silencers;
- Ban “bump stocks” machine-gun type firing and other conversion kits, accessories and parts;
- Allow states to maintain and enforce their own “concealed carry” laws;
- Require microstamping or ballistic fingerprinting of all new firearms and ammunition sold in the U.S.;
- Repeal all state “stand your ground” laws, restoring the use of deadly force as a last resort;
- Encourage local jurisdictions to utilize their “buyer power” to create incentives for firearm manufacturers to employ “countermarketing” strategies to ensure that their retailers are using all available procedures to prevent illegal firearms diversion.

See the next three pages for a detailed discussion of each of these proposals. The NAACP Washington Bureau is monitoring federal action on these and other proposals very closely and will alert our members and supporters when any bill or amendment is moved which might impact gun violence. So far in the 116th Congress, we have seen the introduction of H.R. 8 by Congressman Mike Thomson (CA) which would require a background check for every firearm sale.
PROPOSALS TO STOP THE RAVAGES OF GUN VIOLENCE

- **REQUIRE UNIVERSAL BACKGROUND CHECKS ON ALL GUN SALES AND TRANSFERS:** to date, the National Instant Criminal Background Check System has prevented nearly 1.8 million criminals and other prohibited purchasers from buying guns; yet currently as many as 40% of all guns are sold to individuals without the benefit of a thorough background check, including those with mental health conditions, due to loopholes in the law. The NAACP supports extending a background check to all purchases or transfers of firearms. On December 7, 2017, the U.S. House passed the NAACP-opposed legislation, H.R. 38, the “Concealed Carry Reciprocity Act.” This legislation contained an NAACP-supported provision, the text of the Fix NICS Act of 2017, which ensures that federal and state authorities comply with existing law and accurately report relevant criminal history records to the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS). The bill incentivizes and assists states in improving their overall reporting and penalizes federal agencies which fail to properly report relevant records.

- **BAN MILITARY-STYLE SEMI-AUTOMATIC ASSAULT GUNS AND MILITARY HIGH CAPACITY AMMUNITION CLIPS:** assault weapons are military-style weapons of war, made for offensive military battlefields. They are weapons of choice for gangs, drug dealers, police murderers and mass murderers and have no place in civilized society. Furthermore, high capacity ammunition clips allow shooters to shoot as many as 100 bullets before stopping to reload. In the cases of numerous mass shootings, killers were stopped only when they were forced to pause to reload their weapons;

- **ENACT TOUGH NEW CRIMINAL PENALTIES FOR STRAW PURCHASERS AND GUTRAFFICKERS:** Some straw purchases are small: A person buys one or more guns for a convicted criminal, or someone with a history of mental illness or domestic abuse, who would never get through a background check. Other purchases are larger: Gun traffickers recruit buyers with clean records to assemble arsenals to sell on the black market or transfer to drug cartels. Under current law, there is no specific statute that makes it illegal to act as a straw purchaser of any size of firearms;

- **BAN SUSPECTS ON THE TERROR WATCH LIST FROM PURCHASING FIREARMS:** If an individual exhibits behavior which warrants placement on the “terror watch list,” he or she should be prohibited from owning a gun, until such time as he or she is no longer a suspect;

- **PROVIDE FUNDING FOR THE CENTER FOR DISEASE CONTROL (CDC) TO RESEARCH GUN VIOLENCE AS A MAJOR PUBLIC HEALTH ISSUE:** For 20 years Congress has voted to reiterate the “Dickey Amendment,” which denied funding and effectively banned the CDC from doing critical research to prevent gun violence. A central part of preventing future tragedies as a result of gun violence is through conducting rigorous scientific research as this has been a proven successful approach in reducing deaths due to other injuries, including automobile injuries. In 2018, Congress passed legislation clarifying that the “Dickey Amendment” does not prohibit CDC from awarding grants to study gun violence. We must now work to see that the research is funded.
• **INCENTIVIZE AND ASSIST STATES IN IMPROVING THEIR OVERALL REPORTING TO THE NATIONAL INSTANT CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECK SYSTEM (NICS):** By strengthening the background check system, we will be saving lives. Federal and state authorities should be incentivized and assisted in complying with existing law and accurately report relevant criminal history records to the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS). Furthermore, federal agencies which fail to properly report relevant records should be penalized.

• **MAINTAIN CURRENT LAW REGARDING SILENCERS:** Currently, Americans are able to obtain silencers legally after undergoing a thorough background check process and registering the silencer with law enforcement. As a result of this effective regulation, silencers are rarely used in crime. Some Members of Congress would remove these regulations, making it easy for individuals who are unable to pass a background check - felons, domestic abusers, and people suffering a mental health crisis - to obtain these dangerous weapon enhancements through unregulated private sales, on the internet, and at gun shows—and then use them in violent crime. The NAACP supports current law: silencers make firearms all the more dangerous. The sound of a gunshot alerts people, including law enforcement officials, to what is going on, therefore giving them the opportunity to take cover or take action to prevent more tragedy.

• **Ban “bump stocks” machine-gun type firing and other conversion kits, accessories and parts:** In firearms, bump fire is the act of using the recoil of a semi-automatic firearm to fire shots in rapid succession, which simulates the ability of a fully automatic firearm. “Bump fire stocks,” or “bump stocks” allow guns to fire at nearly the rate of a machine gun without technically converting it to a fully automatic firearm. Using a bump stock, or other similar conversion tool allows a shooter to increase the speed at which shots are fired but can reduce accuracy. A bump stock was used in the October, 2017 Las Vegas massacre in which a single shooter, firing from a hotel window, randomly killed 58 people and injured 422 others.

• **REQUIRE MICROSTAMPING OR BALLISTIC FINGERPRINTING OF ALL NEW FIREARMS SOLD IN THE U.S.:** Ballistic identification is the science of using a ballistic fingerprint to identify the specific firearm used in a shooting. A comprehensive ballistic identification system would connect a bullet or cartridge case recovered at a crime scene directly to the make, model and serial number of the gun from which it was fired. A technology called “microstamping” has made comprehensive ballistic identification a reality. Microstamping technology utilizes lasers to make microscopic engravings on the breech face and firing pin of a gun. As the gun is fired, a code identifying the weapon’s serial number is stamped onto the cartridge. This enables police to trace a gun without ever physically recovering it. A traced firearm is a valuable lead in a criminal investigation, because investigators can then connect that weapon to its first purchaser, who may become either a suspect or a source of information helpful to the investigation. On October 13, 2007, California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger made history by signing a first-of-its-kind microstamping bill into law. The District of Columbia enacted a similar microstamping law in January 2009. Several other states, and the U.S. Congress, are now considering microstamping legislation. The technology promises to revolutionize the way law enforcement officials investigate homicides and other gun crimes.
• **ALLOW STATES TO MAINTAIN AND ENFORCE THEIR OWN “CONCEALED CARRY” LAWS:** Currently, the concealed carry permit for each state varies, and each state determines whether it will recognize the permits of other states. Some states have strong laws regarding who can obtain a concealed carry permit and require training and a thorough evaluation. Other states issue concealed carry permits using recklessly lower standards, even to non-residents. The 12 states with the loosest laws do not require a permit at all. In these unregulated carry states a resident of that state may carry a concealed firearm automatically. Sadly, on December 7, 2017, the US House of Representatives passed H.R. 38, the *Concealed Carry Reciprocity Act of 2017*. This bill would permit any individual authorized by their home state to carry a concealed handgun to also carry that concealed weapon in any other state that permits the carrying of concealed weapons.

• **REPEAL ALL STATE “STAND YOUR GROUND” LAWS, RESTORING THE USE OF DEADLY FORCE AS A LAST RESORT:** The traditional presumption in the law—from the advent of the Hebrew Bible through the creation of Roman law, English common law, and American law—has been that if you could spare human life, it was incumbent upon you to do so. With “Stand Your Ground” (aka “Shoot First”) laws, 3,000 years of jurisprudence has been turned on its head. Now you can provoke a fight, and if losing that fight, under the “Stand Your Ground” laws you can legally kill the person you attacked. This represents a dangerous and unprecedented escalation in the use of force in the public space, allowing individuals to kill when they merely fear “great bodily harm” (i.e., a fistfight, shoving match, etc.). The concept of responding with proportional force has been obliterated. Additionally, “Stand Your Ground” laws remove the duty to retreat from a conflict in public, allowing individuals to shoot and kill even when they could otherwise walk away safely from an altercation. The message to would-be killers is now clear. You need not fear carrying your gun in public, or using it. If you do, just make sure you are the only one remaining to testify about the nature of the confrontation in question.

• **ENCOURAGE LOCAL JURISDICTIONS TO UTILIZE THEIR “BUYER POWER” TO CREATE INCENTIVES FOR FIREARM MANUFACTURERS TO EMPLOY “COUNTERMARKETING” STRATEGIES TO ENSURE THAT THEIR RETAILERS ARE USING ALL AVAILABLE PROCEDURES TO PREVENT ILLEGAL FIREARMS DIVERSION:** Cities and other local jurisdictions wield important power over the gun industry. In the aggregate, municipal governments are some of the largest purchasers of guns nationally due to their need to outfit local law enforcement departments. Firearms manufacturers and distributors understand the importance of this critical market segment and give it substantial attention. This gives cities considerable buyer power in their dealings with the gun industry. Cities have a unique opportunity to curb the violence caused by gun trafficking. A city purchasing firearms for its law enforcement department can use its “buyer power” to create incentives for firearm manufacturers to employ “countermarketing” strategies to ensure that their retailers are using all available procedures to prevent illegal firearms diversion. Manufacturers would be obliged to listen and change their policies to compete for this valuable market share. In this way, gun manufacturers and cities could begin to work together in a collaborative, positive fashion.
DATE: Summer, 2019
TO: Concerned Parties
FROM: Hilary O. Shelton, Director, NAACP Washington Bureau

TWO NAACP–SUPPORTED BILLS REQUIRING COMPREHENSIVE, COMPLETED, BACKGROUND CHECKS ON ALL GUN PURCHASES PASS THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES WE NOW NEED TO URGE THE SENATE TO TAKE UP THIS LIFE SAVING LEGISLATION

THE ISSUE:
At the end of February, 2019 H.R. 8, the Bipartisan Background Checks Act of 2019 and H.R. 1112 the Extend Background Check Length passed the U.S. House of Representatives with bipartisan support. Together, these bills would have a definite impact on reducing gun violence and saving lives; while they will not resolve all of our problems, they would be a huge step in the right direction, and would help keep firearms out of the hands of those who clearly should not have them. Specifically, H.R. 8 would bar direct firearms sales between unlicensed people, including at gun shows or online, without a background check. Firearms could be sold only by licensed dealers, manufacturers, or importers, who are required to conduct comprehensive background checks. H.R. 1112 would mandate that no sale of a firearm may be conducted without a completed background check.

Gun violence kills an average of 35,000 people each year in the U.S., with experts predicting that it will continue to increase if nothing is done. Furthermore, gun violence disproportionately impacts communities of color in the United States. Gun violence is the number one killer of African Americans aged 15 to 34. Despite the fact that African Americans make up only 13% of the U.S. population, we represent nearly 50% of all gun homicide victims. 49% of deaths of African-American males between ages 15 and 19 are gun-related homicides — more than the next nine leading causes of death combined. Their white counterparts die from gun-related homicides in less than 8% of deaths. In 2016, the number of African Americans who died from firearms was almost twice the number of White Americans. In 2017, guns became the third leading cause of death for all children and teens in the U.S. — in some states even surpassing the number of those killed by car accidents, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Furthermore, being African American increases a child’s likelihood of dying from gun violence tenfold. Moreover, the “survivors” of gun violence often suffer from untold damages, both physical and mental.

H. R. 1112 would close what is known as the “Charleston Loophole,” in which licensed gun dealers may proceed with a firearm transfer three business days after initiating a background check, even if the check hasn’t been completed. This phenomenon is known as the “Charleston Loophole” after the Charleston Church massacre at the historically African American Emmanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church (“Mother Emmanuel”) in Charleston, S.C., in June 2015. This mass killing was perpetrated with a gun legally sold without a completed background check after the three-day period. Requiring a completed background check for every gun sale, including those at gun shows and through the internet, is a common-sense policy that will help save lives. We should enact H.R. 1112 and H.R. 8, and its Senate counterpart, S. 42 (by Senator Murphy, CT) and make it the law of the land sooner rather than later.
THE ACTION WE NEED YOU TO TAKE:
Contact both your Senators and URGE THEM TO CO-SPONSOR AND SUPPORT H.R. 8 / S. 42 AND H.R. 1112. To contact your Senators you may:

✓ **Make a Phone Call:**
   Call your Senators in Washington by dialing the Capitol Switchboard and asking to be transferred to your Senators' offices. The switchboard phone number is **(202) 224-3121** (see message section, below).

✓ **Write a Letter**
   To write letters to your Senators, send them to:
   The Honorable **(name of Senator)**
   U.S. Senate
   Washington, D.C. 20510

✓ **Send a Fax**
   If you would like to send a fax, call your Senators’ offices (through the Capitol switchboard) and ask for their fax numbers (you can use either the attached sample letter or the message box, below).

✓ **Send an E-Mail**
   To send an e-mail to your Senators, go to [www.senate.gov](http://www.senate.gov) and click on “Contact” under “Senators.” You can look up your Senators by name or state; go to their web sites to send an e-mail.

REMEMBER TO CONTACT BOTH YOUR SENATORS!!!!!

THE MESSAGE

- While increased background checks will not solve all our nation’s gun violence problems, requiring completed background checks before any gun sale would be a huge step in the right direction;

- Requiring completed and increased background checks will close dangerous gaps in federal law that makes it possible for individuals who are prohibited from gun possession, like domestic abusers and persons with violent criminal histories, to have easy access to firearms;

- Currently, as many as a quarter of all gun sales occur without a background check.

- Gun violence kills an average of 35,000 people each year in the U.S., and disproportionately impacts communities of color.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION TO THIS IMPORTANT MATTER!!!

If you have any questions, call Hilary Shelton at the Washington Bureau at (202) 463-2940.

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(date)

The Honorable _________________________
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

RE: STRONG SUPPORT FOR H.R. 8 / S. 42 AND H.R. 1112

Dear Senator _________________________:

As your constituent, I urge you to strongly support H.R. 8 / S. 42, the Bipartisan Background Checks Act of 2019 and H.R. 1112, the Extend Background Check Length. Both bills passed the House of Representatives by bipartisan margins in February, 2019. While increased background checks will not solve all our nation’s gun violence problems, the enactment of H.R. 8 and H.R. 1112 would be a huge step forward, and would help keep firearms out of the hands of those who clearly should not have them. They will close the dangerous gaps in federal law that make it possible for individuals who are prohibited from gun possession, like domestic abusers and persons with violent criminal histories, to have easy access to firearms. These are common sense pieces of legislation, sadly both born from tragedies, that would have a significant impact on reducing gun violence and saving lives.

Under current federal law, only licensed gun dealers are required to conduct a background check before completing a gun sale. However, individuals who are not licensed dealers (including people who sell firearms at gun shows or online) are free to sell guns under federal law without conducting a background check and with no questions asked. Furthermore, under what is now known as the “Charleston Loophole,” licensed gun dealers may proceed with a firearm transfer three business days after initiating a background check, even if the check hasn’t been completed. This phenomenon is known as the “Charleston Loophole” after the Charleston Church massacre at the historically African American Emmanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church (“Mother Emmanuel”) in Charleston, S.C., in June 2015. This mass killing was perpetrated with a gun legally sold without a completed background check after the three-day period. Together, H.R. 8 and H.R. 1112 represent measured, reasonable responses to significant gaps in the law. These gaps allow individuals who are prohibited for good reasons from gun possession to circumvent the law.

To date, over 3 million firearm sales to prohibited persons were blocked when federally licensed gun dealers ran and completed background checks. These bills would update current law and ensure that individuals who are barred from gun possession are not able to buy them through private sales, and that the background checks are completed. States that require a background check or permit to purchase a handgun have seen reduced rates of gun homicides, suicides by firearm, and gun trafficking.

Requiring a completed background check for every gun sale is a common-sense policy that will help save lives. Gun violence kills an average of 35,000 people each year in the U.S., with experts predicting that it will continue to increase if nothing is done. It is a public health crisis that devastates our communities every day. Congress should act quickly to pass H.R. 8 / S. 42 and H.R. 1112. In doing so, you will be taking critical steps in addressing the scourge of gun violence and making our homes, communities, and country safer. Requiring a background check for every gun sale is a common-sense policy that will help save lives. Please contact me in the near future and let me know what you are doing to stop this scourge and what more I can do to help.

Sincerely,

(sign and print your name and remember to include your address)
DATE: Summer, 2019
TO: Concerned Parties
FROM: Hilary O. Shelton, Director, Washington Bureau

CALL ON CONGRESS TO ABOLISH THE FEDERAL DEATH PENALTY

U.S. EXECUTIONS CONTINUE DESPITE THE HORRIFIC, IMMORAL AND RACIST PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH THE DEATH PENALTY.

THE ISSUE

From the days of lynchings through the years of Jim Crow laws, and even today capital punishment has always been deeply affected by race. Although African Americans make up just under 13% of the overall population, 43% of the people currently on death row are black, and almost 35% of those who have been executed in the United States are African American. The death penalty undermines trust and integrity in the criminal justice system because it is racially biased, inhumane and risks the lives of innocent people. Currently, 33 states and the federal government use the death penalty.

There can be no doubt that race plays a role in the use of the death penalty: a 2014 study found that jurors in Washington state are three times more likely to recommend a death sentence for an African American defendant than for a white defendant in a similar case. Furthermore, the race of the victim in a death penalty case appears to have an impact: a 2011 study in Louisiana showed that the odds of a death sentence were 97% higher for those whose victim was white than those whose victim was African American. The problematic role of race sends the troubling message that in our criminal justice system African American lives are less valuable than those of White Americans.

The death penalty has never been proven to be a deterrent against capitol crimes: regionally, Southern states have the highest murder rate, despite having over 80% of the country’s executions. Northeastern states, which have less than 1% of all executions, have consistently had the lowest murder rate.

Lastly, implementation of the death penalty is extremely expensive to American taxpayers. In Florida, for example, the death penalty costs $51 million a year above what it would cost to punish all first-degree murderers with life in prison without parole. Based on the 44 executions Florida had carried out between 1976 and 2000, that amounts to a cost of $24 million for each execution.
THE ACTION WE NEED YOU TO TAKE:
Contact your Representative and both your Senators and ask them to SUPPORT LEGISLATION TO ABOLISH THE DEATH PENALTY. To contact your Senators and Representative, you may:

✓ Make a Phone Call:
Call your Senators and your Representative in Washington by dialing the Capitol Switchboard and asking to be transferred to your Senators’/Congressman’s office. The switchboard phone number is (202) 224-3121 (see message section, below).

✓ Write a Letter
To write letters to your Senators, send them to:
The Honorable (name of Senator)
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

To write a letter to your Representative, send it to:
The Honorable (name of Representative)
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

✓ Send a Fax
If you would like to send a fax, call your Senators’ or Representative’s office (through the Capitol switchboard) and ask for their fax numbers (you can use either the attached sample letter or the message box, below).

✓ Send an E-Mail
To send an e-mail to your Senators, simply go to www.senate.gov, click on Senators, then click on Contacting Senators (by name or by state). This selection will also help you to identify your two Senators.
To send an e-mail to your Representative, go to www.house.gov, and click on “write your representative.” This will help you identify who your congressman is and how to contact him/her.

Unfortunately, not all Members of Congress have e-mail addresses.

REMEMBER TO CONTACT BOTH OF YOUR SENATORS !!!!!

THE MESSAGE:

• The handing down of the death penalty in America is clearly affected by the color of the defendant’s skin. African Americans have always been, and continue to be, disproportionately put to death at the hands of the American "justice" system.

• Currently, African Americans account for 43% of the nation’s death row population, even though they make up only 13% of the nation’s civilian population.

• Race plays a role in the color of the defendant, as well as the color of the victim. This implies that white lives are valued more than those of racial or ethnic minorities by our criminal justice system.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION TO THIS IMPORTANT MATTER!!!
If you have any questions, call Hilary Shelton at the Washington Bureau at (202) 638-2269

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For more information, call your local NAACP branch or visit www.naacp.org
The Honorable ________________
U.S. House of Representatives / U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20515 / 20510

RE: SUPPORT FOR AN ABOLITION OF THE DEATH PENALTY

Dear Congressman / Senator ________________:

As your constituent, I hope that you will co-sponsor and support legislation to abolish Federal executions in the United States. The handing down of the death penalty in America has been and continues to be clearly affected by race. African Americans have always been, and continue to be, disproportionately put to death at the hands of the American "justice" system.

As study after study has shown, the handing down of the death penalty in America is affected by the color of the defendant’s skin. Currently, African Americans account for 43% of the nation’s death row population, even though they make up only 13% of the nation’s civilian population.

Furthermore, a 2014 study found that jurors in Washington state are three times more likely to recommend a death sentence for an African American defendant than for a white defendant in a similar case. Furthermore, the race of the victim in a death penalty case appears to have an impact: A 2011 study in Louisiana showed that the odds of a death sentence were 97% higher for those whose victim was white than those whose victim was African American. The problematic role of race sends the troubling message that in our criminal justice system African American lives are less valuable than those of White Americans.

The seventeenth century poet John Donne said, "Any man’s death diminishes me, because I am involved in mankind." This becomes especially compelling when we are talking about the death of an innocent person, or the death of a person because of the color of his skin. As it is employed in the United States today, the death penalty is a terrible miscarriage of justice, and it reflects on our nation as a whole.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I look forward to hearing from you in the near future to let me know what I can do to help you see this legislation enacted sooner rather than later.

Sincerely,

Don't forget to contact your Representative in the House and BOTH your U.S. Senators!

(Sign and print your name and include your address)
DATE: Summer, 2019
TO: Concerned Parties
FROM: Hilary O. Shelton, Director, NAACP Washington Bureau

NAACP-SUPPORTED “POLICE TRAINING AND INDEPENDENT REVIEW ACT,” H.R. 125 / S. 1938 IS INTRODUCED IN THE HOUSE AND SENATE TO ADDRESS CONFLICT OF INTEREST BY LOCAL PROSECUTORS

NEW LAW WOULD ENCOURAGE STATE GOVERNMENTS TO PROVIDE MORE SUBSTANTIAL TRAINING FOR LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT

THE ISSUE:
Conflict between law enforcement officials and the communities they serve throughout the nation, has sadly been featured with increasing prominence in the local and national news. From New York to Oakland, CA; from Minnesota to Florida, and everywhere in between racial and ethnic minorities are concerned that they are being treated differently, and often much more harshly, by law enforcement. Sadly, this disparate treatment does at time have fatal consequences, and the lack of consequences for the law enforcement official often compounds the frustration, and the mistrust of our communities.

To help address the concerns of many of the communities served and represented by the NAACP Congressmen Steve Cohen (TN) and Lacy Clay (MO) have introduced the Police Training and Independent Review Act of 2019 (H.R. 125). Senator Tammy Duckworth (IL) has introduced companion legislation in the U.S. Senate (S. 1938). This legislation addresses this very serious problem on two fronts: first, it encourages states to provide training to law enforcement officers when dealing with ethnic and racial communities, cultural diversity, and police interaction with the disabled, mentally ill, and new immigrants. Secondly, the legislation would encourage states to use independent prosecutors to investigate and, if need be, prosecute instances of police use of deadly force.

The majority of law enforcement officers are hard-working, courageous, and dedicated men and women, whose concern for the safety of those they are charged with protecting and serving is paramount, even when their own safety is on the line. However, if and when even one of their colleagues engages in behavior that is seen as insensitive, disrespectful, or damaging to the culture of a community, whether it be conscious or subconscious, the trust of the entire community can be, and will be, lost.

Through the training which is incentivized by this legislation, law enforcement officers will hopefully become much more sensitive to the unique racial, ethnic, and cultural differences which may exist. It will also enable officers to better protect themselves as they protect those who they are hired to protect and serve. By further incentivizing states to utilize independent prosecutors in the unfortunate case in which deadly forced is used, this legislation will give more credibility to the system. It removes the conflict that exists when we ask local prosecutors to investigate the same law enforcement officers with whom they work so closely.
THE ACTION WE NEED YOU TO TAKE:
Contact your Representative and both your Senators and URGE THEM TO SUPPORT THE POLICE TRAINING AND INDEPENDENT REVIEW ACT OF 2019, H.R. 125 / S. 1938. To contact your Senators and Representative, you may:

✓ Make a Phone Call:
Call your Senators and your Representative in Washington by dialing the Capitol Switchboard and asking to be transferred to your Senators/Congressman’s offices. The switchboard phone number is (202) 224-3121 (see message section, below).

✓ Write a Letter
To write letters to your Senators, send them to:
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Washington, D.C. 20510
To write a letter to your Representative, send it to:
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U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

✓ Send a Fax
If you would like to send a fax, call your Senators’ or Representative’s offices (through the Capitol switchboard) and ask for their fax numbers (you can use either the attached sample letter or the message box, below).

✓ Send an E-Mail
To send an email to your Representative, go to www.house.gov, and on the home page click “Representatives”. This will allow you to click your Representative either by state or by name. Click on your Representative and you will be directed to his / her web page, which will have instructions on how to send an e-mail. The homepage of www.house.gov also has a tool to help you identify who your Representative is.
To send an e-mail to your Senators, go to www.senate.gov and click on “Contact” under “Senators.” You can look up your Senators by name or state; go to their web sites to send an e-mail.

REMEMBER TO CONTACT BOTH YOUR SENATORS!!!!!

THE MESSAGE
• The majority of law enforcement officers are hard working men and women, whose concern for the safety of those they are charged with protecting and serving is paramount, even when their own safety is on the line. However, if and when even one of their colleagues engages in behavior that is seen as insensitive, disrespectful, or damaging to the culture of a community, whether it be conscious or subconscious, the trust of the entire community can be, and will be, lost.

• We need not only to better equip and train our law enforcement officials, but we need to restore confidence in the criminal justice system by incentivizing the hiring of independent prosecutors when deadly force is used.

• We must eliminate every appearance of a conflict of interest between law enforcement and prosecutors in order to rebuild the trust of communities in our criminal justice system.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION TO THIS IMPORTANT MATTER!!!
If you have any questions, call Hilary Shelton at the Washington Bureau at (202) 463-2940.

MEMBERSHIP IS POWER! JOIN THE NAACP TODAY.
To become an NAACP member or to sign up for e-mail legislative and press updates, visit www.naacp.org
(date)

The Honorable __________________________
United States Senate / House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20510 / 20515

RE: STRONG SUPPORT FOR THE POLICE TRAINING AND INDEPENDENT REVIEW ACT OF 2019 (H.R. 125 / S. 1938)

Dear Senator / Representative __________________________;

As your constituent, I am writing to urge you to co-sponsor and support through to enactment the Police Training and Independent Review Act of 2019, (H.R. 125 / S. 1938) which was introduced by Congressman Steve Cohen (TN) and Senator Tammy Duckworth (IL). Upon enactment, this legislation will begin to help communities and our nation restore the much-needed integrity and trust between law enforcement and the people they are paid to serve and protect.

The majority of law enforcement officers are hard working men and women, whose concern for the safety of those they are charged with protecting and serving is often paramount, even when their own safety is on the line. However, if and when even one of their colleagues engages in behavior that is seen as insensitive to the culture of a community, whether it be conscious or subconscious, the trust of the entire community can be, and will be, lost. The Police Training and Independent Review Act of 2019 incentivizes law enforcement agencies to require law enforcement officers and academy cadets to receive sensitivity training on ethnic and racial bias, cultural diversity, and police interaction with the disabled, mentally ill, and new immigrants will help build the trust that is necessary. Furthermore, the legislation mandates that states adopt independent investigations and prosecutions of law enforcement officers in cases where one or more of the alleged offenses involves an officer’s use of deadly force in the course of carrying out his or her official duties. This will help restore and solidify that trust that is needed to ensure that concerns of the community are heard.

The Police Training and Independent Review Act of 2019 is a much needed solution to a vexing, and sometimes lethal problem. I strongly encourage you to co-sponsor and work to support this legislation through enactment. Please contact me in the very near future and let me know of your position and what steps you are taking to address the problems facing our criminal justice system as well as our communities.

Sincerely,
(sign and print your name and remember to include your address)

Remember to contact your Representative and BOTH your Senators.
DATE: Summer, 2019
TO: Concerned Parties
FROM: Hilary O. Shelton, Director, NAACP Washington Bureau

MONEY BAIL NEEDS TO BE REFORMED
A FAIR, EQUAL, AND EFFECTIVE JUSTICE SYSTEM MEANS ONE THAT PROTECTS OUR PUBLIC SAFETY AND ENSURES THAT ALL PEOPLE – REGARDLESS OF THEIR INCOME LEVEL OR THEIR RACE, ETHNICITY, OR GENDER – ARE TREATED EQUALLY.

THE ISSUE:
State and local governments from across the country continue to impose money bail by requiring that individuals who have not yet been convicted remain in jail unless they can pay some amount of money; an amount that is often set arbitrarily without consideration for the person’s ability to pay or an analysis of the person’s actual danger to the public or risk of not showing up for trial. In fact, the use of money bail bonds has increased significantly over the past two decades; between 1996 and 2014, the number of un-convicted jail inmates grew by 59 percent. The result of the increase in the money bail requirement disproportionately affects low-income people in our country and racial and ethnic minorities. Studies have shown that African American and Hispanic defendants are more likely to be detained pretrial than white defendants and less likely to be able to post money bail so they can be released. Race and money bail amounts are significantly correlated: nationally, African American men pay 35% higher money bail amounts than white men, and Hispanic men pay 19% higher money bail amounts than white men. Furthermore, nearly 50 percent of the most dangerous pretrial detainees are released without supervision.

If you cannot afford bail, you, as the suspect in the commission of a crime, are left to languish in prison or jail for days, weeks, or sometimes even months until your trial. This in turn places additional pressure and the resulting unintended consequences on low-income people who risk losing their jobs, their homes, or more, if they are absent for too long.

This system is both ineffective and expensive. Jailing arrested people before trial is the greatest expense generated by current pretrial justice practice. Taxpayers now spend approximately $38 million per day to jail people who are awaiting trial. Annually, this adds up to $14 billion. One study found that pretrial detention for a defendant was nearly 10 times more expensive than the cost of supervision of a defendant by a pretrial services officer in the federal system (alternatives to bail include various pretrial services such as drug rehabilitation and various forms of supervision like GPS monitoring, drug tests, check-ins, and court call reminders).

To address the ineffective, expensive, racially discriminatory and sometimes dangerous practice of money bail, Senators Kamala Harris (CA) and Rand Paul (KY) are expected to re-introduced the Pretrial Integrity and Safety Act and a companion bill will be introduced in the U.S. House. This crucial, NAACP-supported legislation incentivizes and encourages states to end the practice of money bail (money bail has effectively been eliminated in in Washington, DC and in the Federal Court system; a judge can set bail only if the defendant can afford it).
THE ACTION WE NEED YOU TO TAKE:
Contact your Representative and both your Senators and URGE THEM TO REFORM THE MONEY BAIL BOND SYSTEM; SERVE AS ORIGINAL CO-SPONSORS OF LEGISLATION TO BE INTRODUCED BY SENATOR HARRIS’ (CA) IN THE SENATE AND IN THE HOUSE. To contact your Senators and Representative, you may:

✓ Make a Phone Call:
Call your Senators and your Representative in Washington by dialing the Capitol Switchboard and asking to be transferred to your Senators'/Congressman’s offices. The switchboard phone number is (202) 224-3121 (see message section, below).

✓ Write a Letter
To write letters to your Senators, send them to:
The Honorable (name of Senator)
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510
To write a letter to your Representative, send it to:
The Honorable (name of Representative)
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

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REMEMBER TO CONTACT BOTH YOUR SENATORS!!!!

THE MESSAGE

- State and local governments from across the country continue to impose money bail by requiring that individuals who have not yet been convicted remain in jail unless they can pay some amount of money; an amount that is often set arbitrarily without consideration for the person’s ability to pay or an analysis of the person’s actual danger to the public or risk of not showing up for trial.

- Money bail disproportionately affects low-income people in our country and racial and ethnic minorities. Studies have shown that African American and Hispanic defendants are more likely to be detained pretrial than white defendants and less likely to be able to post money bail so they can be released. Race and money bail amounts are significantly correlated.

- The current system is ineffective, racist, and expensive: taxpayers now spend approximately $38 million per day to jail people who are awaiting trial.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION TO THIS IMPORTANT MATTER!!!
If you have any questions, call Hilary Shelton at the Washington Bureau at (202) 463-2940.

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To become an NAACP member or to sign up for e-mail legislative and press updates, visit www.naacp.org.
(date)

The Honorable __________________________
United States Senate / House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20510 / 20515

RE: REFORM THE USE OF MONEY BAIL

Dear Senator / Representative __________________________:

As your constituent, I strongly urge you to do all you can to reform the ineffective, expensive, and racist policy of requiring money bail. Specifically, I hope that you will serve as an original co-sponsor of the Pretrial Integrity and Safety Act, soon to be introduced in the Senate by Senators Harris (CA) and Paul (KY) and in the House.

State and local governments from across the country continue to impose money bail by requiring that individuals who have not yet been convicted remain in jail unless they can pay some amount of money, an amount that is often set arbitrarily without consideration for the person’s ability to pay or an analysis of the person’s actual risk to the public. If you cannot afford bail, you, as the suspect in the commission of a crime, are left to languish in prison or jail for days, weeks, or sometimes even months until your trial. This in turn places additional pressure and the resulting unintended consequences on low-income people who risk losing their jobs, their homes, or more, if they are absent for too long.

Jailing arrested people before trial is the greatest expense generated by current pretrial justice practice. Taxpayers now spend approximately $38 million per day to jail people who are awaiting trial. Annually, this adds up to $14 billion. One study found that pretrial detention for a defendant was nearly 10 times more expensive than the cost of supervision of a defendant by a pretrial services officer in the federal system (alternatives to bail include various pretrial services such as drug rehabilitation and various forms of supervision like GPS monitoring, drug tests, check-ins, and court call reminders).

Finally, numerous studies have found the current system to be rife with racial disparities. African American and Hispanic defendants are more likely to be detained pretrial than white defendants and less likely to be able to post money bail so they can be released. Race and money bail amounts are significantly correlated: nationally, African American men pay 35% higher money bail amounts than white men, and Hispanic men pay 19% higher money bail amounts than white men.

There must be a better way. A fair, equal, and effective justice system means one that protects our public safety and ensures that all people—regardless of their income level or their race, ethnicity, or gender—are treated equally. Please be an original co-sponsor and see through passage the Pretrial Integrity and Safety Act. I look forward to hearing from you soon,

Sincerely,

(sign and print your name and remember to include your address)

Remember to contact your Representative and BOTH your Senators.
ACTION ALERT

DATE: Summer, 2019
TO: Concerned Parties
FROM: Hilary O. Shelton, Director, Washington Bureau

URGE YOUR SENATORS AND REPRESENTATIVE TO ENDORSE AND SUPPORT THE KHALID JABARA AND HEATHER HEYER NATIONAL OPPOSITION TO HATE, ASSAULT AND THREATS TO EQUALITY ACT (THE KHALID JABARA AND HEATHER HEYER “NO HATE” ACT)

THE ISSUE:
President Barack Obama signed the NAACP-strongly-supported Matthew Shepard, James Byrd Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act into law in December, 2009. This law significantly expanded the role the federal government can play in the investigation and prosecution of hate crimes. The legislation built on the Civil Rights Act of 1968, which permits federal prosecution of anyone who “willingly injures, intimidates or interferes with another person, or attempts to do so, by force because of the other person’s race, color, religion or national origin” or because of the victim’s attempt to engage in one of six types of federally protected activities, such as attending school, patronizing a public place/facility, applying for employment, acting as a juror in a state court or voting.

The Matthew Shepard, James Byrd Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act expanded existing hate crime prevention laws and allowed the federal government to assist local authorities in the investigation and prosecution of crimes motivated by hate, regardless of where or what the victim was doing at the time the crime occurred. It also expanded the definition of a hate crime to include those motivated by the victim’s disability, gender or sexual orientation and it provided grants to states to develop hate crime prevention programs. In short, the Matthew Shepard, James Byrd Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act allows the federal government to work with state and local authorities to prevent or, if necessary, punish hate crimes to the fullest extent possible. As past cases have clearly demonstrated, the federal government is often needed to compliment state and local efforts to investigate and prosecute these very complicated and costly cases.

One of our biggest current problems is the incomplete collection of accurate hate crimes data. The Hate Crime Statistics Act (HCSA), as amended and made permanent in 1996 requires the Attorney General to collect data on crimes committed because of the victim’s race, religion, disability, sexual orientation, or ethnicity. Data must always drive criminal justice policy. The first step in addressing hate violence in America is to know its nature and magnitude. We need State and local jurisdictions to fully report hate crimes activities to the U.S. Justice Department. In 2017, 87 percent of all participating police agencies affirmatively reported zero (0) hate crimes to the FBI (including at least 82 cities over 100,000). More than 1,000 law enforcement agencies did not report any data to the FBI (including 9 cities over 100,000).

The Khalid Jabara and Heather Heyer National Opposition to Hate, Assault and Threats to Equality (No Hate) Act, introduced by Senator Richard Blumenthal, CT, and by Congressman Don Beyer, VA, authorizes grants to promote and improve hate crime training, prevention, best practices, and data collection initiatives – and to develop state hate crime reporting hotlines to refer individuals to local law enforcement and support services. It also allows courts to require that defendants participate in educational programs or community service as a condition of supervised release, thereby taking great strides in helping in the healing process.
THE ACTION WE NEED YOU TO TAKE:
Contact your U.S. Senators and Representative and ask them to be a co-sponsor THE KHALID JABARA AND HEATHER HEYER NATIONAL OPPOSITION TO HATE, ASSAULT AND THREATS TO EQUALITY (NO HATE) ACT (H.R. 3545 / S. 2043). To contact your Senators and Representative you should:

☑ Make a Phone Call:
Call your Senators and your Representative in Washington by dialing the Capitol Switchboard and asking to be transferred to your Senators’/Congressman’s offices. The switchboard phone number is (202) 224-3121 (see message section, below).

☑ Write a Letter
If you choose to write letters to your Senators, send them to:
The Honorable (name of Senator)
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510
If you choose to write a letter to your Representative, send it to:
The Honorable (name of Representative)
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

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PLEASE REMEMBER TO CONTACT BOTH OF YOUR SENATORS!

THE MESSAGE:
♦ The first step in addressing hate violence in America is to know its nature and magnitude. We need State and local jurisdictions to fully report hate crimes activities to the U.S. Justice Department.

♦ The FBI report documented that hate crimes against African Americans, LGBT community members, Native Americans, Jews, and Muslims all increased in 2015. However, the FBI also documented in 2016, 87 percent of all participating police agencies affirmatively reported zero (0) hate crimes to the FBI (including at least 82 cities over 100,000). More than 1,000 law enforcement agencies did not report any data to the FBI (including 9 cities over 100,000).

♦ The Khalid Jabara and Heather Heyer National Opposition to Hate, Assault and Threats to Equality (No Hate) Act incentivizes and encourages state and local law enforcement agencies to more comprehensively collect and report credible, reliable hate crimes data to the FBI.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION TO THIS IMPORTANT MATTER!!!
If you have any questions, call Hilary Shelton at the Washington Bureau at (202) 463-2940.

MEMBERSHIP IS POWER! JOIN THE NAACP TODAY.
For more information, call your local NAACP branch or visit www.naacp.org.
RE: ENDORE AND SUPPORT THE KHALID JABARA AND HEATHER HEYER NATIONAL OPPOSITION TO HATE, ASSAULT AND THREATS TO EQUALITY (NO HATE) ACT

Dear Senator / Representative ________________________________;

As your constituent, I am writing to urge you to support and co-sponsor bipartisan and bicameral “Khalid Jabara and Heather Heyer National Opposition to Hate, Assault and Threats to Equality (No Hate) Act”, introduced by Senator Richard Blumenthal, (CT) and Rep. Donald S. Beyer, (VA). This important legislation establishes incentives for state and local law enforcement to submit credible and complete hate crime reports, creates grants for state-run hate crime hot lines, and allow for judges to require community service or educational programming for individuals convicted under the Mathew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act. It takes concrete steps to put an end to the insidious and discriminatory practice of profiling at the federal, state and local levels based on race, ethnicity, appearance, religious affiliation, sexual orientation or national origin whether real or perceived.

As painfully and more publically discussed, hate crimes are a serious and growing problem in the United States. The increase in the number of hate groups, their membership and hate crimes in the United States, make it clear that more research and complete date is sorely needed. The dramatic underreporting of hate crimes make it extremely difficult to know the full scope of the problem. At a time when an increase number of Americans face unprecedented threats to their lives and property as a result of many types of bigotry and racism, Congress must do its part to take action to improve hate crime reporting, provide victims with more support and options, and encourage entire communities to come together and heal.

In 2017, the most current Hate Crimes Statistics Act (HCSA) data available, 87 percent of all participating police agencies affirmatively reported zero (0) hate crimes to the FBI (including at least 82 cities over 100,000). More than 1,000 law enforcement agencies did not report any data to the FBI (including 9 cities over 100,000). The United States Justice Department be must be able to fully collect hate crimes data if we are to craft a comprehensive solution.

I strongly urge you to become a co-sponsor of the Khalid Jabara and Heather Heyer National Opposition to Hate, Assault and Threats to Equality (No Hate) Act and help address the very serious problem. Please let me know what you intend to do, and what I can do to help you in this fight. Thank you in advance for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

(sign and print your name and remember to include your address)
DATE: Summer, 2019
TO: Concerned Parties
FROM: Hilary O. Shelton, Director, NAACP Washington Bureau

BILL TO UPDATE AND STRENGTHEN THE NAACP-SUPPORTED VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT (VAWA) PASSES THE U.S. HOUSE
WE MUST NOW PUT PRESSURE ON THE SENATE TO PASS THE SAME BILL; HALF-MEASURES SUCH AS A STRAIGHT REAUTHORIZATION ARE NOT ACCEPTABLE, NOR ARE ROLLBACKS OF EXISTING PROTECTIONS FOR SURVIVORS

THE ISSUE:
On 4-4-19, the House passed, by a margin of 263 yeas to 158 nays, H.R. 1585, a bill to reauthorize, or update, and strengthen the NAACP-supported and very successful Violence Against Women Act (VAWA). VAWA, was originally enacted in 1994 and has been reauthorized and strengthened by strong bipartisan majorities in 2000, 2005, and 2013. The law is seen today as one of the most effective pieces of legislation enacted to end domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. It has dramatically improved the law enforcement response to violence against women and has provided critical services necessary to support women in their struggle to overcome abusive situation. As originally written, VAWA authorized $1.6 billion toward the investigation and prosecution of violent crimes against women, imposed automatic and mandatory restitution on those convicted, and allowed civil redress in cases prosecutors chose to leave un-prosecuted. The Act also established the Office on Violence Against Women within the Department of Justice. Sadly, VAWA expired on February 15, 2019.

Congresswoman Karen Bass (CA) and Congressman Brian Fitzpatrick (PA) have introduced H.R. 1585, the bipartisan Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2019, and Senator Dianne Feinstein (CA) is expected to introduce companion legislation in the Senate this spring. This legislation not only gives necessary funding increases to VAWA programs, but it also makes modest yet vital enhancements to existing law, based on input from VAWA service providers as well as those who have benefitted from the program. Specifically, H.R. 1585: Invests in prevention; ends impunity for non-Native perpetrators of sexual assault, child abuse co-occurring with domestic violence, stalking, sex trafficking, and assaults on tribal law enforcement officers on tribal lands; improves enforcement of court orders that require adjudicated domestic abusers to relinquish their firearms; improves access to housing for victims and survivors; protects victims of dating violence from firearm homicide; helps survivors gain and maintain economic independence; updates the federal definition of domestic violence for the purposes of VAWA grants only to acknowledge the full range of abuse victims suffer (it does not impact the criminal definition of domestic violence); maintains existing protections for all survivors; and it improves the healthcare system’s response to domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, and stalking, including adding stalkers to the list of those who are prohibited from possessing firearms.

We must now let the Senate know that half-measures such as a straight reauthorization of VAWA are not acceptable, nor are rollbacks of existing protections for survivors. We are at a crucial moment in the movement to end domestic and sexual violence. High profile stories of abuse and assault are bringing these topics to dinner tables across the country and inspiring some survivors to come forward. And when they ask for help? Programs and protections created by VAWA increase their access to safety and justice.

SEE HOW EVERY MEMBER OF THE U.S. HOUSE VOTED
THE ACTION WE NEED YOU TO TAKE:
Contact both your Senators and URGE THEM TO SUPPORT A COMPREHENSIVE, AGGRESSIVE REAUTHORIZATION WHICH BUILDS ON THE SUCCESSES OF VAWA. To contact your Senators you may:

✓ Make a Phone Call:
Call your Senators in Washington by dialing the Capitol Switchboard and asking to be transferred to their offices. The switchboard phone number is (202) 224-3121 (see message section, below).

✓ Write a Letter
To write letters to your Senators, send them to:
The Honorable (name of Senator)
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Send a Fax
If you would like to send a fax, call your Senators’ offices (through the Capitol switchboard) and ask for their fax numbers (you can use either the attached sample letter or the message box, below).

✓ Send an E-Mail
To send an e-mail to your Senators, go to www.senate.gov and click on “Contact” under “Senators.” You can look up your Senators by name or state; go to their web sites to send an e-mail.

REMEMBER TO CONTACT BOTH YOUR SENATORS!!!!!

THE MESSAGE

• VAWA is seen today as one of the most effective pieces of legislation enacted to end domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. It has dramatically improved the law enforcement response to violence against women and has provided critical services necessary to support women in their struggle to overcome abusive situation.

• The bipartisan reauthorization legislation currently supported by the NAACP makes modest yet vital enhancements to existing law, based on input from service providers as well as victims and survivors who have benefitted from VAWA.

• Half-measures such as a straight reauthorization of VAWA are not acceptable, nor are rollbacks of existing protections for survivors

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION TO THIS IMPORTANT MATTER!!!
If you have any questions, call Hilary Shelton at the Washington Bureau at (202) 463-2940.

MEMBERSHIP IS POWER! JOIN THE NAACP TODAY.
To become an NAACP member or to sign up for e-mail legislative and press updates, visit www.naacp.org
(date)

The Honorable ______________________
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

RE: STRONG SUPPORT FOR A ROBUST, YET REASONABLE REAUTHORIZATION
OF THE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT, H.R. 1585

Dear Senator ______________________:

As your constituent, I strongly urge you to support H.R. 1585, and its Senate
counterpart, which is a robust yet entirely reasonable and much needed reauthorization
of the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA). We are at a crucial moment in the
movement to end domestic and sexual violence. Half-measures such as a straight
reauthorization of VAWA are not acceptable, nor are rollbacks of existing protections for
survivors.

Today VAWA is seen as one of the most effective pieces of legislation enacted to end
domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. It has dramatically
improved the law enforcement response to violence against women and has provided
critical services necessary to support women in their struggle to overcome abusive
situation. High profile stories of abuse and assault are bringing these topics to dinner
tables across the country and inspiring some survivors to come forward. And when they
ask for help? Programs and protections created by VAWA increase their access to safety
and justice. We have come too far in our struggle to allow ourselves to go backwards.

H.R. 1585 is bipartisan legislation which makes modest yet common-sense and vital
enhancements to existing law, based on input from service providers as well as victims
and survivors who have benefitted from VAWA. Please do what you can to see this
crucial bill enacted sooner rather than later, and I hope you will contact me to let me
know what I can do to help.

Sincerely,

(sign and print your name and
remember to include your address)

Remember to contact your
Representative and BOTH
your Senators.
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**Votes:**
- ▲: voted with the NAACP position and in support of H.R. 1585
- ▼: voted in opposition to H.R. 1585
- ▼: voted Present
- ? : did not vote
- V: seat is vacant
Violence Against Women Act Re-Authorization and Strengthening
H.R. 1585 / Final Passage / House Vote # 156
H.R. 1585 passed the U.S. House of Representatives on April 4, 2019,
by a margin of 263 yeas to 158 nays
The NAACP strongly supported H.R. 1585

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Legend:
- ▲ = voted with the NAACP position and in support of H.R. 1585
- ▼ = voted in opposition to H.R. 1585
- ≈ = voted Present
- ? = did not vote
- V = seat is vacant
# Violence Against Women Act Re-Authorization and Strengthening

H.R. 1585 / Final Passage / House Vote # 156

H.R. 1585 passed the U.S. House of Representatives on April 4, 2019, by a margin of 263 yeas to 158 nays.

The NAACP strongly supported H.R. 1585

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| 2              | Holding     |
| 3              | VACANT      |
| 4              | Price       |
| 5              | Foxx        |
| 6              | Walker      |
| 7              | Rouzer      |
| 8              | Hudson      |
| 9              | VACANT      |
| 10             | McHenry     |
| 11             | Meadows     |
| 12             | Adams       |
| 13             | Budd        |

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**H.R. 1585 / Final Passage / House Vote # 156**

H.R. 1585 passed the U.S. House of Representatives on April 4, 2019, by a margin of 263 yeas to 158 nays.

**The NAACP strongly supported H.R. 1585**

#### Pennsylvania
1. Fitzpatrick
2. Boyle
3. Evans
4. Dean
5. Scanlon
6. Houlihan
7. Wild
8. Cartwright
9. Meuser
10. Perry
11. Smucker
12. Joyce, John
13. Reschenthaler
14. Thompson, Glen
15. Kelly, Mike
16. Lamb
17. Doyle

#### Texas
1. Gohmert
2. Crenshaw
3. Taylor
4. Ratcliffe
5. Gooden
6. Wright
7. Fletcher
8. Brady
9. Green, Al
10. McCaul
11. Conaway
12. Granger
13. Thornberry
14. Weber
15. Gonzalez, Vicente
16. Escobar
17. Flores
18. Jackson Lee
19. Arrington
20. Castro
21. Roy
22. Olson
23. Hurd
24. Marchant
25. Williams
26. Burgess
27. Cloud
28. Cuellar
29. Garcia, Sylvia
30. Johnson, E. B.
31. Carter, John
32. Allred
33. Veasey
34. Vela
35. Doggett
36. Babin

#### Utah
1. Bishop, Rob
2. Stewart
3. Curtis
4. McAdams

#### Virginia
1. Wittman
2. Wexton
3. Connolly
4. Luria
5. Scott, Robert
6. McEachin
7. Riggleman
8. Cline
9. Spanberger
10. Beyer
11. Griffith

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1. Welch

#### Washington
1. Delbene
2. Larsen, Rick
3. Herrera Beutler
4. Newhouse
5. McMorris Rodgers
6. Kilmer
7. Jayapal
8. Schrier
9. Smith, Adam
10. Heck

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2. Mooney
3. Miller

#### Wisconsin
1. Steil
2. Pocan
3. Kind
4. Moore
5. Sensenbrenner
6. Grothman
7. Duffy
8. Gallagher

#### Wyoming
1. Cheney
DATE:        Summer, 2019
TO:          Concerned Parties
FROM:        Hilary O. Shelton, Director, NAACP Washington Bureau

US SENATE UNANIMOUSLY PASSES NAACP-SUPPORTED
JUSTICE FOR VICTIMS OF LYNCHING ACT (S. 488)
WHICH WILL FINALLY MAKE LYNCHING A FEDERAL HATE CRIME
LYNCHING WAS AND CONTINUES TO BE A FORM OF DOMESTIC TERRORISM
WE MUST NOW URGE THE US HOUSE TO PASS THE BILL
AND SEND IT TO THE PRESIDENT TO BECOME LAW

THE ISSUE:
Immediately upon introduction, on 12/14/2019, the U.S. Senate unanimously passed S. 488, the Justice for Victims of Lynching Act, which was introduced by Senators Kamala Harris (CA), Cory Booker (NJ), Tim Scott (SC), and over 40 of their colleagues from both sides of the aisle. This crucial legislation would make lynching a hate crime, therefore eligible for the additional federal tools and resources used to investigate and prosecute hate crimes. The fate of the legislation is now up to the House of Representatives; we must pass this legislation and send it to the President’s desk for signature.

Companion legislation, H.R.35, was introduced in the House on 1/3/2019 (the first day of the 116th Congress) by Congressman Bobby Rush (IL), but no further action has been taken.

A very similar bill passed the U.S. Senate in December, 2018, but the House did not act prior to adjournment and the bill died. We cannot allow history to repeat itself. Lives, and justice, depend on it.

The crime of lynching continued even after slavery had been abolished as the ultimate expression of racism, hatred and domestic terrorism in the United States. For over a century, it has been used to kill, terrorize and intimidate African Americans and the communities in which we live. It is a horrific form of torture, murder, and intimidation.

Lynching has occurred throughout the United States, with documented incidents in 46 of the 50 states. At least 4,742 men, women and children, predominantly African Americans, were reported lynched in the United States between 1882 and 1968. 99% of all perpetrators of lynching escaped from punishment. Sadly, despite nearly 200 anti-lynching bills being introduced in Congress during the first half of the 20th century, and between 1920 and 1940, the U.S. House of Representatives passed 3 strong anti-lynching measures, the Senate failed to act. Enactment of federal anti-lynching legislation was one of the key reasons the NAACP formed a Washington Bureau in 1914, and it has remained one of our top priorities. In 2005, after almost 100 years of unsuccessful legislative efforts, Senator Mary Landrieu (LA) was able to pass an apology to the victims of lynching and their descendants for the body’s failure to act; unfortunately, no other bills relating to lynching have passed in the Congress since then, until now.

In these days of increased racial violence and animosity it is wholly necessary and appropriate for the Congress to enact legislation to make lynching a Federal hate crime. In doing this, we will be bringing additional federal resources to the investigation and prosecution of this heinous act. Furthermore, only by coming to terms with our sordid history can the United States effectively champion civil and human rights at home and abroad.
THE ACTION WE NEED YOU TO TAKE:
Contact your Representative and URGE HIM OR HER TO SUPPORT THE IMMEDIATE PASSAGE OF S. 488 / H.R. 35, THE JUSTICE FOR VICTIMS OF LYING ACT. To contact Representative, you may:

✓ Make a Phone Call:
Call your Representative in Washington by dialing the Capitol Switchboard and asking to be transferred to your Representative’s office. The switchboard phone number is (202) 224-3121 (see message section, below).

✓ Write a Letter
To write a letter to your Representative, send it to:
The Honorable (name of Representative)
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

✓ Send a Fax
If you would like to send a fax, call your Representative’s office (through the Capitol switchboard) and ask for his or her fax number (you can use either the attached sample letter or the message box, below).

✓ Send an E-Mail
To send an e-mail to your Representative, go to www.house.gov, and click on “Find Your Representative” (on the right hand side of the screen) and enter your zip code. This should take you to a screen that identifies who your Representative is and how to get in touch with him or her.

THE MESSAGE

- Lynching is a form of torture, intimidation and domestic terrorism. For over a century, it has been used to torture, terrorize and intimidate African Americans;

- At least 4,742 people, predominantly African Americans, were reported lynched in the United States between 1882 and 1968. 99% of all perpetrators of lynching escaped from punishment by Federal, State or local officials;

- Protection against lynching is the most basic of Federal responsibilities;

- Regardless of the horrors of lynching, the U.S. Senate has never acted to prevent or punish lynching prior to the passage of this bill;

- By making lynching a hate crime, we will be bringing additional federal resources to the investigation and prosecution of this heinous act;

- A very similar bill passed the U.S. Senate in December, 2018, but the House did not act prior to adjournment and the bill died. We cannot allow history to repeat itself!

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION TO THIS IMPORTANT MATTER!!!
If you have any questions, call Hilary Shelton at the Washington Bureau at (202) 463-2940.

MEMBERSHIP IS POWER! JOIN THE NAACP TODAY.
To become an NAACP member or to sign up for e-mail legislative and press updates, visit www.naACP.org
(date)

The Honorable __________________________
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20510 / 20515

RE: STRONG SUPPORT FOR S. 488 / H.R. 35, LEGISLATION TO MAKE LYNCHING A FEDERAL HATE CRIME

Dear Representative __________________________;

As your constituent, I strongly urge you to support S. 488 / H.R. 35, bipartisan, bicameral legislation which would designate lynching as a hate crime. This important legislation passed the Senate unanimously on 2/14/19, and it is now up to the House to act so it can be sent to the President for his signature. A very similar bill passed the U.S. Senate in December, 2018, but the House did not act prior to adjournment and the bill died. We cannot allow history to repeat itself. Lives, and justice, depend on it.

The crime of lynching began during slavery and has continued as the ultimate violent and horrendous expression of racism in the United States following Reconstruction. The lynching of people was and continues to be a form of torture, murder, and intimidation; it is the very definition of domestic terrorism.

There are documented incidents of lynching in all but 4 of our 50 states. At least 4,742 people, predominantly African Americans, were reported lynched in the United States between 1882 and 1968, and the evil practice continued. Protection against lynching is the most basic of Federal responsibilities; sadly over the past century the U.S. Senate considered but failed to enact anti-lynching legislation despite repeated requests by civil rights groups, religious organizations, Presidents, and the U.S. House of Representatives to do so. 99 percent of all perpetrators of lynching escaped from punishment by State or local officials. Notwithstanding the Senate’s 2005 apology to the victims of lynching and the body’s failure to act, it is wholly necessary and appropriate for the Congress to enact legislation, after over 100 years of unsuccessful legislative efforts, finally to make lynching a Federal hate crime.

I strongly support S. 488 / H.R. 35. By making lynching a hate crime, we will be bringing additional federal resources to the investigation and prosecution of this heinous act. We need this legislation if we are going to seriously address this form of domestic terrorism. Furthermore, only by coming to terms with history can the United States effectively champion human rights abroad. Please let me know what you intend to do to stop this repulsive act of intimidation and domestic terrorism, and what more I can do to help you.

Sincerely,

(sign and print your name and remember to include your address)
ACTION UPDATE / ACTION ALERT

DATE: Summer, 2019
TO: Concerned Parties
FROM: Hilary O. Shelton, Director, NAACP Washington Bureau

NAACP-SUPPORTED “EMMETT TILL ANTILYNCHING ACT” PASSES HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE AND HEADS TO THE FLOOR FOR A VOTE

WORKING TO END THE HORRORS OF LYNCHING IN THE UNITED STATES WAS THE FIRST LEGISLATIVE PRIORITY OF THE NAACP IN 1914. WE MUST FINALLY PASS THIS LEGISLATION TO HELP END THIS ACT OF DOMESTIC TERRORISM

THE ISSUE:
On 6/12/2019 the full Judiciary Committee of the U.S. House of Representatives unanimously passed H.R. 35, the Emmett Till Antilynching Act, legislation introduced by Congressman Bobby Rush (IL) which would also make lynching a federal hate crime. We are one step closer to seeing this bill become law!

We must now advocate to all of our members of the U.S. House of Representatives to bring this bill up before the full House, to support and pass it, and to the President to sign the bill sooner rather than later. Lives, and justice, depend on it.

On 12/14/2019, the U.S. Senate unanimously passed S. 488, the Justice for Victims of Lynching Act, which was introduced by Senators Kamala Harris (CA), Cory Booker (NJ), Tim Scott (SC), and over 40 of their colleagues from both sides of the aisle. This crucial legislation would make lynching a hate crime, therefore eligible for the additional federal tools and resources used to investigate and prosecute hate crimes.

The crime of lynching continued even after slavery had been abolished as the ultimate expression of racism, hatred and domestic terrorism in the United States. For over a century, it has been used to kill, terrorize and intimidate African Americans and the communities in which we live. It is a horrific form of torture, murder, and intimidation.

Sadly, despite nearly 200 anti-lynching bills being introduced in Congress during the first half of the 20th century, and despite the U.S. House of Representatives passing 3 strong anti-lynching measures between 1920 and 1940, the Senate failed to act. Enactment of federal anti-lynching legislation was one of the key reasons the NAACP formed a Washington Bureau in 1914, and it has remained one of our top priorities. In 2005, after almost 100 years of unsuccessful legislative efforts, then-Senator Mary Landrieu (LA) was able to pass an apology to the victims of lynching and their descendants for the body’s failure to act; unfortunately, no other bills relating to lynching have passed in the Congress since then, until now.

In these days of increased racial violence and animosity it is wholly necessary and appropriate for the Congress to enact legislation to make lynching a Federal hate crime. In doing this, we will be bringing additional federal resources to the investigation and prosecution of this heinous act. Furthermore, only by coming to terms with our sordid history can the United States effectively champion civil and human rights at home and abroad.
THE ACTION WE NEED YOU TO TAKE:
Contact your Representative and URGE HIM OR HER TO SUPPORT THE IMMEDIATE PASSAGE OF H.R. 35, THE JUSTICE FOR VICTIMS OF LYNCHING ACT. To contact Representative, you may:

✓ Make a Phone Call:
   Call your Representative in Washington by dialing the Capitol Switchboard and asking to be transferred to your Representative’s office. The switchboard phone number is (202) 224-3121 (see message section, below).

✓ Write a Letter:
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THE MESSAGE

● Lynching is a form of torture, intimidation and domestic terrorism. For over a century, it has been used to torture, terrorize and intimidate African Americans;

● At least 4,742 people, predominantly African Americans, were reported lynched in the United States between 1882 and 1968. 99% of all perpetrators of lynching escaped from punishment by Federal, State or local officials;

● Protection against lynching is the most basic of Federal responsibilities;

● Regardless of the horrors of lynching, the U.S. Senate has never acted to prevent or punish lynching prior to the passage of this bill;

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(date)

The Honorable __________________________
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

RE: STRONG SUPPORT FOR THE IMMEDIATE PASSAGE OF H.R. 35, LEGISLATION TO MAKE LYNCHING A FEDERAL HATE CRIME

Dear Representative __________________________:

As your constituent, I strongly urge you to support H.R. 35, bipartisan, bicameral legislation which would designate lynching as a hate crime. This important legislation passed the Senate unanimously on 2/14/19, and it is now up to the House to act so it can be sent to the President for his signature. Lives, and justice, depend on it.

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I strongly support H.R. 35. By making lynching a hate crime, we will be bringing additional federal resources to the investigation and prosecution of this heinous act. We need this legislation if we are going to seriously address this form of domestic terrorism. Furthermore, only by coming to terms with history can the United States effectively champion human rights abroad. Please let me know what you intend to do to stop this repulsive act of intimidation and domestic terrorism, and what more I can do to help you.

Sincerely,

(sign and print your name and remember to include your address)
DATE: Summer, 2019
TO: Concerned Parties
FROM: Hilary O. Shelton, Director, NAACP Washington Bureau

NAACP-OPPosed William P. Barr is confirmed by the U.S. Senate to be the Next Attorney General
February 14th, 2019 Final Vote is 54 Yeas - 45 Nays;
A.G. Barr is sworn in later that day

THE ISSUE:
On February 14, 2019, the United States Senate voted, by a margin of 54 yeas to 45 nays, in support of the confirmation of William P. Barr to be the Attorney General of the United States. He was sworn in later that day.

These are extraordinary times. Under the current administration, we have experienced the worst erosion of civil rights in modern history. We have seen reversals and rollbacks of longstanding policies and positions that enjoyed bipartisan support and protected the civil, voting, and human rights of our most vulnerable communities. We have seen an undermining of both substantive protections and the tools necessary for civil rights enforcement, such as the disparate impact method for proving discrimination and the use of consent decrees to address abuse by police agencies.

The next Attorney General of our United States has the opportunity to reverse course and place the Justice Department back on track to fulfill its historic role in safeguarding our civil and constitutional rights. The Senate must seize this chance for justice and insist upon an Attorney General capable of independence and willing to enforce our nation’s civil rights laws with vigor and resolve. After a thorough evaluation and review of the record, William Barr demonstrated that he does not meet these needs.

As Attorney General from 1991 – 1993 under George H. Bush, Mr. Barr championed the mass incarceration that deprived countless persons of color of their liberty and dramatically limited their future potential. His Justice Department tenure was marked by extraordinarily aggressive policies that harmed people of color. He was a General in the War on Drugs that was rooted in racism. He literally wrote the book on “The Case for More Incarceration.” Sadly, William Barr did not and does not recognize the racially discriminatory impact of our criminal justice policies. In 1992, he said “I think our system is fair and does not treat people differently.” And in his confirmation hearings, he told Senator Booker, “Overall, the system treats blacks and white fairly,” despite data which demonstrates that there are disparities.

The Department of Justice is also responsible for monitoring and enforcing our nation’s voting rights laws, and for ensuring that every eligible American has free and unfettered access to the voting booth, and that their vote will be counted. Sadly, the current Department has jettisoned protections for the right to vote. It has reversed its positions in lawsuits, and now supports voter suppression measures and the purging of voters from rolls. There is no reason to believe William Barr will change course; in fact, all evidence appears to support his approval of the current state of events and that he will continue on the same, damaging course begun by Attorney General Jeff Sessions. Mr. Barr also has a troubling history with immigrants’ rights, women’s rights and the rights of LGBTQ Americans.

We need an Attorney General who understands both the history and persistence of racism in our criminal justice and voting rights systems, and is willing to pursue policies to eliminate them. William Barr is not that man.

SEE HOW EVERY SENATOR VOTED ON THE FOLLOWING PAGE.
BARR CONFIRMATION  
Senate vote #24  
Confirmation of President Trump’s nominee William P. Barr to be the Attorney General of the United States  
The nomination was confirmed by a margin of 54 yeas to 45 nays on February 14, 2019  
THE NAACP OPPOSED THE CONFIRMATION

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**VOTE KEY**  
▲ = Voted in support of the NAACP position and in opposition to the confirmation of Mr. Barr  
▼ = Voted against the NAACP position and in favor of the confirmation of Mr. Barr  
? = Did not vote