DATE: September 23, 2019
TO: Concerned Parties
FROM: Hilary O. Shelton, Director, NAACP Washington Bureau

NAACP CALLS FOR SWIFT PASSAGE OF THE DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM DATA ACT IN THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TO ENHANCE THE UNDERSTANDING OF THREATS POSED BY VIOLENT HATE GROUPS AND RIGHT-WING EXTREMISTS

H.R. 3106 WOULD GREATLY IMPROVE PUBLIC TRANSPARENCY, SAFETY AND TRANSPARENCY

THE ISSUE:
Today, the federal government’s anti-terrorism efforts focus primarily on international terrorism threats. Yet most privately generated information (most notably a recent story by the Washington Post) points to an increase of home-grown domestic terrorism as a larger threat. Furthermore, most of the information gathered is classified as “secret” (in other words, not available to the public or most policy-makers). And it is collected by the U.S. Department of Justice, the Department of Homeland Security, and the FBI. There is a need for centralized, reliable, publically accessible information on terrorism and its roots to inform the American people as well as federal, state, and local law enforcement of effective counter-terrorism policymaking.

Real threats to the American people are often misunderstood, and our reaction to them is too often driven by limited information. As too many in our community know, the real threat to our happiness and well-being comes from domestic threats such as hate groups and violent right-wing extremists, among others; and those threats appear to be growing in strength and number.

Congressman Bennie Thompson (MS), the Chairman of the House Committee on Homeland Security, has drafted legislation to address these problems in the protection of our people. H.R. 3106, the Domestic and International Terrorism DATA Act, is the result of extensive hearings and research. H.R. 3106 requires an annual, unclassified joint report produced by the FBI and US Department of Homeland Security and the US Department of Justice that provides, among other things, an assessment of domestic threats. H.R. 3106 will help to advance Congressional and public understanding of trends in terrorism, thereby enabling a better response.

H.R. 3106 is currently slated to be considered by the full House of Representatives on Wednesday, September 25, 2019, in the afternoon. WE MUST URGE EVERY MEMBER OF THE HOUSE TO SUPPORT IT.
THE ACTION WE NEED YOU TO TAKE:
Contact your Representative and URGE HIM OR HER TO SUPPORT H.R 3106, THE DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM DATA ACT when it comes to the floor of the U.S. House for consideration on Wednesday, 9/25/19. To contact your Representative, you may:

✓ Make a Phone Call:
   Call your Representative in Washington by dialing the Capitol Switchboard and asking to be transferred to his / her offices. 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 Representative’s offices (through the Capitol switchboard) and ask for his / her fax number (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.

THE MESSAGE

○ Currently, anti-terrorism efforts focus primarily on international terrorism threats; most of the information gathered is classified as “secret” (in other words, not available to the public or most policy-makers); and it is collected by the U.S. Department of Justice, the Department of Homeland Security, and the FBI;

○ There is a need for centralized, reliable, publically accessible information on terrorism and its roots to inform the American people of effective counter-terrorism policymaking;

○ H.R. 3106 requires an annual, unclassified joint report produced by the FBI and US Department of Homeland Security and the US Department of Justice that provides, among other things, an assessment of domestic threats.

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 House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

RE: MY STRONG SUPPORT FOR H.R. 3106, THE “DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM DOCUMENTATION AND ANALYSIS OF THREATS IN AMERICA (DATA) ACT”

Dear Representative ______________________________;

As your constituent, , I would like to urge you, in the strongest terms possible, to support H.R. 3106, the Domestic and International Terrorism Documentation and Analysis of Threats in America (the “Domestic and International Terrorism DATA”) Act when it comes before you on the House floor later this week. Upon enactment, H.R. 3106 would foster crucial transparency and facilitate informed policymaking on domestic terrorism.

Today, federal efforts to address terrorism are largely outside of public view. Furthermore, genuine threats to the American people are misunderstood, or driven by limited information. Yet we live in a nation rife with a sordid history of racist domestic terrorism, which is sadly growing in the number of groups as well as high-profile activities. The growth of these groups currently presents a more dangerous threat to our nation and her people than terrorism that has international origins. There is a need for centralized, reliable, publically accessible information on domestic terrorism to inform effective counter-terrorism policymaking. By requiring an annual, unclassified joint report produced by the FBI and US Department of Homeland Security and the US Department of Justice that provides, among other things, an assessment of domestic threats, H.R. 3106 will help to advance Congressional and public understanding of trends in terrorism.

It is through this informed understanding of the extent to which these genuine threats to our well-being as a nation that we will be able to effectively address this challenge. H.R. 3106 will not only help us measure this threat, but also manage the programmatic solutions.

Thank you for considering my concerns. I urge you to support passage of H.R. 3106, the “Domestic and International Terrorism DATA” Act when it comes before you on the floor of the House.

Sincerely,

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