



American Federation
of Teachers, AFL-CIO

AFT Teachers
AFT PSRP
AFT Higher Education
AFT Public Employees
AFT Nurses and Health
Professionals

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March 3, 2021

U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative,

On behalf of the more than 1.7 million members of the American Federation of Teachers, I write in support of H.R. 1280, the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act of 2021. This legislation offers a necessary and comprehensive approach to reform policing, empower communities, and build trust between communities and law enforcement, by addressing systemic racism and bias in all aspects of policing.

This past summer, the AFT passed a resolution laying out 19 commitments to combat systemic racism and violence against people of color, including the separation of school safety from policing and police forces. H.R. 1280 includes a number of provisions directly aligned with our commitments.

The George Floyd Justice in Policing Act makes it clear that neither police brutality nor excessive force has any place in this country. And, while no single law could erase the centuries of systemic racism, inequality and excessive policing, H.R. 1280 is a step in the right direction.

Specifically, the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act of 2021 will:

- Institute measures to end racial, religious and discriminatory profiling.
- Reform policing, including enabling police accountability in our courts.
- Establish grants to empower communities to reimagine and develop concrete, just and equitable public safety approaches.
- Grant victims more direct avenues for remedy.
- Improve transparency in policing by collecting better and more accurate data of police misconduct and use of force, including school resource officers.
- Improve police training and practices.

The **American Federation of Teachers** is a union of professionals that champions fairness; democracy; economic opportunity; and high-quality public education, healthcare and public services for our students, their families and our communities. We are committed to advancing these principles through community engagement, organizing, collective bargaining and political activism, and especially through the work our members do.



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H.R. 1280 will reform policing by confronting misconduct and excessive force; it will establish a national use-of-force standard, ban chokeholds and no-knock warrants, reform qualified immunity, increase the U.S. Department of Justice's authority to prosecute misconduct by law enforcement officers and more. This legislation will create transparency so communities can know the records of law enforcement officers, including those who have committed dangerous or discriminatory acts.

This bill will create structural change and contains meaningful reforms. We applaud Rep. Karen Bass, House Judiciary Committee Chair Jerry Nadler and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi for their leadership on this bill. I urge your support of H.R. 1280, the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act of 2021.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Randi Weingarten". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Randi" and last name "Weingarten" clearly distinguishable.

Randi Weingarten
President

RW : emc opeiu #2 afl-cio