



NAACP

June 17, 2020

The Honorable
Member
Committee on the Judiciary
United States House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

RE: NAACP STRONG SUPPORT FOR H.R. 7120, THE *JUSTICE IN POLICING ACT*

Dear Representative,

On behalf of the NAACP, our nation's oldest, largest and most widely-recognized grassroots-based civil rights organization, I strongly urge you to support and vote to move to the floor of the full House of Representatives H.R. 7120, the *Justice in Policing Act*. While this legislation will go a far way in the much-needed reformation of policing practices in our communities, by itself it is not enough. We also need to address issues that have plagued our communities for centuries, including income inequality, health care disparities, and environmental injustice to name a few. But we need to start somewhere, and the enactment of H.R. 7120, the *Justice in Policing Act* is an aggressive, inspired, and necessary step we as a nation need to take.

Extensive, inexcusable police misconduct and brutality have plagued our communities for too long. Since our inception in 1909, the NAACP has fought against law enforcement officers who would rather use their guns against unarmed African American's and other unarmed citizens rather than come to a non-violent solution. Just last night, our National Board of Directors passed a resolution in support of H.R. 7120, the *Justice in Policing Act*. Specifically, the resolution called for legislation to, among other things, hold police accountable, end racial profiling, change the culture of law enforcement, empower our communities, and build trust between law enforcement and our communities by addressing systemic racism and bias to help save lives. Because we have been the subjects of harsh and often blatant law enforcement misconduct for so long, the National Board resolution also reaffirmed over one dozen NAACP resolutions calling for an end to the brutality.

In the names of George Floyd, Rayshard Brooks, Breonna Taylor, Michel Brown, Eric Gardiner, Walter Scott, Rodney King and the thousands as of others who have suffered and died at the hands of police brutality, well as in the name of basic morality, please support H.R. 7120, the

National Association for the Advancement of Colored People

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Justice in Policing Act. The NAACP strongly supports this inspired, much-needed legislation as an important first step. Should you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact me at my office at (202) 463-2940 or my cell# (202) 812- 1909.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Hilary O. Shelton', written in a cursive style.

Hilary O. Shelton
Director, NAACP Washington Bureau &
Senior Vice President for Policy and Advocacy