December is Made in America Month and the perfect time for leaders in both parties to come together around common-sense policies that put American businesses and the American worker first.

The bipartisan Made in America Act is just that kind of policy. This legislation would connect American consumers to American manufacturers by creating a definitive, standardized label for American-made goods.

By incentivizing businesses and manufacturers to meet certain “Made in America” benchmarks for domestic production and providing consumers with reliable and easy-to-understand information, the Made in America Act can meet two very valuable goals: increasing American purchases of American goods and resettling American businesses and American jobs.

Making it in America is crucial to ensuring better jobs and more opportunities for our families across the Nation. The Made in America Act, in the case of Made in America Month, let’s work together and let’s get it done.

CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker’s announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentleman from New York (Mr. JEFFRIES) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

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words of the parents of Michael Brown. His father pleaded that Michael Brown not have died in vain. The people in the streets are there to see that Michael Brown did not die in vain; that probable cause, once again, becomes color blind, that when a young Black man goes into the street, he is no longer consistently and constantly profiled because of the color of his skin.

These demonstrations show that issues of detention and stopping of Black men, especially Black men in the streets of the streets of the Nation’s Capitol. And I say to my good friends, this is a progressive city. I cannot imagine what it must be like across the United States. A young Black man in St. Louis held up a gun, which is all about the big picture. It said: “We Are All Mike Brown.”

When my son goes into the streets, he is Michael Brown. We want an America so that when he goes into the streets, he is like everybody else until he does something wrong and there is probable cause to show it. That does not occur in any city, in any small hamlet in the United States today, and so, yes, this great tragedy has become a vehicle to express that grievance.

This is a tragedy that can be done. The President has just come forward with a request for an appropriation for body cameras, a small amount, 260-some million dollars. Body cameras work. We have found that when police have body cameras, they protect the police as well as protecting members of the public.

Mr. JEFFRIES. I thank the distinguished gentlewoman for her observations.

Mr. Speaker, we are here as members of the Congressional Black Caucus to have an open, honest, and direct dialogue with America.

In a democracy, there has to be a balance between effective law enforcement on the one hand and a healthy respect for the Constitution and the civil rights of others, particularly of African Americans, on the other. If we are honest, we have not gotten that balance right, and as a result, we see young, unarmed, innocent African American men being gunned down in city after city in America, and we are here to say, “Enough is enough.”

I am pleased now to yield to someone who has served this institution incredibly well as a Member of Congress, who has served the country well as a member of the military, the lion of Lenox Avenue, the distinguished gentleman from the great State of New York and the village of Harlem, Representative CHARLIE RANGEL.

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I have never felt more proud of my colleague from New York, for the great leadership that he has provided, since his arrival in this august body.

This is such a great country, and I love it so much. I was raised in the shadow of the Statue of Liberty, and when I graduated from law school, having been the only one in my family having gone to college, I think my mother said, “Thank you, Jesus,” and I said something like, “Thanks for the Constitution, and thanks for being born in America.”

Like anything else you love, if there is an illness, if there is a problem, you would want to know what can you do to cure it. How can you make it all that our country can be? How can we say that we have a cancer that, until we recognize that we do, then we don’t really love the country?

How can we be able to say that White and Black in this country are equal and that those who work hard and live by the rules have the same opportunities as each other, when we know that we have this cancer that sometimes we are able to make the country do a lot better than it has since our people were the only ones who were actually brought here in and women be elected to local and State offices around this country, to come here and join with nine African American Members of Congress in 1970 and to walk tall and know that, in that short period of time, we have grown to over 40, 45 Members of Congress, does that mean that we have rid ourselves of the cancer? I think not.

When will we do it? It is by admitting that we do have that problem because, whether we are talking about Ferguson or Watts or Harlem or Bed-Stuy, until we admit that we have this illness and that we have this problem, then sin out the success of some of us in this country does not heal the wounds that have been left through the centuries of racial hatred and prejudice.

We have been able to say we were freed by the Emancipation Proclamation, but the truth of the matter is our people have been in slavery more than we have been so-called free people, and the fact that they said that you are no longer a slave didn’t mean that you we people who unconsciously don’t have all the rights and the privileges of it.

It hasn’t been that long that I can remember my grandfather from Accomac, Virginia, talking about inconstant people being lynched in Virginia, and as a result, we have not gotten the success of some of us in this country does not heal the wounds that have been left through the centuries of racial hatred and prejudice.

Until we reach the point that African American parents don’t have to tell their kids to act differently just because of their color, that they have to subscribe to a type code you teach them, one hand, to be a man and stand up for your rights, but if he is in uniform, then beg and plead and don’t say anything that might irritate him—I think—I really believe—that is the success of some of us in this country does not heal the wounds that have been left through the centuries of racial hatred and prejudice.

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I hope we will not lose our focus on the big picture, that we are, in essence, sending a message to police departments all over the United States.

Even though you think you are not doing it, what we are talking about is endemic throughout the United States. People are laying down in peaceful protest. Yes, they are blocking the streets. I must say, when I was a youngster in the civil rights movement, we tried not to inconvenience people; but, look, this is a wholly different day, and they mean to draw the attention of the entire public and, yes, of police around the United States to just how much of a festering sore unwarranted stops of people of color have been.

I thank my good friend from New York for leading this Special Order. I thank the chair of the Congressional Black Caucus for leading us off tonight.

In the spirit of Michael Brown’s father, who asked that his son not have died in vain, let us make sure that we support the President’s request for a pilot program for providing cameras, that we send the message back home to our police departments, and that we work together to make probable cause colorblind.

I thank my good friend from New York.
are black or brown or yellow—or whatever the complexion is—that the greatest benefit and asset that we have as a nation is that we bring in all of these cultures together to build the greatest Nation on Earth.

Whether we have another Ferguson in another 10 years or 20 years, it doesn’t have to be. What has to be is that we cut this poison out of the system of this great country and openly say that we have this problem, and then act upon it. Mr. Brown would want, that death would have been just another sacrifice that one of us has made to wake up this wonderful country to do what has to be done.

Let me thank you for constantly reminding us that we have come a long, long way from how we got here, but we have a long way to go. Thank you so much.

Mr. JEFFRIES. I thank the distinguished gentleman from New York for his always eloquent and poignant observations.

Let me now yield to one of my dynamic colleagues on the Judiciary Committee, the distinguished gentleman from Texas, Representative SHEILA JACKSON LEE.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Allow me to add my appreciation for the continued leadership of my friend and colleague from New York and to thank the previous speakers. We all associate ourselves with the passion, the commitment, the determination that has been expressed.

Let me, as I stand, acknowledge that I am particularly pleased to be associated with distinguished legislators. Many people in this Nation have their particular roles as pastors and as civil rights leaders.

In a meeting held right before the Thanksgiving holiday, members of the Congressional Black Caucus were reminded of the giant role that they have played over the years in combining passion with legislation, hearings with compassion, that it not only be ourselves with the passion, the commitment, the determination that has been expressed.

As early as the 1990s, we held hearings on the questions of excessive force, as well as of the issues of racial profiling along the highways of America, of the issue of excessive sentencing in the crack cocaine disparities; of the issue of dealing with the overincarceration of minorities and the overfilling of jails.

Today, Mr. Speaker, I rise to plead to my colleagues. We are legislators, and we cannot legislate without the partnership of Republicans, so I stand as a Democrat and as a member of the Congressional Black Caucus that has always been cited as the conscience of America to say that we need to walk in step with the conspicuous Achilles heel of America, that is the criminal justice system.

As we stand here today, every one of us has applauded a police officer, has mourned at their passing in the line of duty, has given them awards, has stood alongside of them—every one of us.

Certainly, I will not take a backseat to anyone on my respect for law enforcement across the gamut. I recognize that they are here to protect and serve, and I think it is very crucial that our friends in law enforcement recognize the work that members of the Congressional Black Caucus have done, if not individually, then collectively.

Let me say that I also admire the young St. Louis Rams players who raised their hands to be able to share in the dignity of those young, peaceful protesters. If we don’t affirm nonviolence, then it is not there.

I think everyone—law enforcement and others—who agree or disagree should recognize young people like the ones in Houston, Texas. “Don’t shoot.”

That does not in any way denigrate or disrespect our law enforcement officers. For just a few minutes, I want to speak about that aspect and how we see the justice system.

To my colleagues, this is 2,500 pages. Those documents issued by the DA in St. Louis County were 10,000 pages. I am continuing to grow this stack. It is clear that what happened in the grand jury system, for many who don’t know that system, is that those individuals are appointed by a judge.

A single judge says, “Who do I know in the community? Let me see if I can appoint 12 of them.” In St. Louis County, it took nine to indict.

If you listen to New York State Chief Judge Sol Wachtler, who famously remarked that a prosecutor could persuade a grand jury to indict a ham sandwich, when I served on the municipal court, there were many probable cause hearings that we held, and there were many efforts by police officers to get a warrant, to be able to go when they thought there was suspicion of a crime. We worked with law enforcement officers.

In fact, the data says, according to the Bureau of Justice statistics, U.S. attorneys prosecuted 162,000 Federal cases in 2010, which is the most recent year for which we have data, grand juries declined to return an indictment in 11. That is Federal. That is not the State system in Missouri, but I assure you it is comparable.

So what happened in Missouri as it relates to the criminal justice system? First of all, a grand jury system is not a jury of your peers. A grand jury is not a jury of your peers. A grand jury system is something different from a trial, a petit jury or a trial by your peers.

So I would say that what happened in St. Louis was not the way that the process usually goes. Mr. McCulloch thought this is on the table. And you needed nine—nine. Unfortunately, the configuration of that jury made it very unclear that there was not going to be an indictment.

So today I think it is very important that we address several questions. We need to look at the grand jury system here across the Nation. We need to look at it in the name of Sean Bell; Amadou Diallo; Eric Garner; Robbie Tolan, in my community, where the officer was not indicted; Trayvon Martin, a civilian; Michael Brown; and the 12-year-old boy. We need to look at it from the perspective of why isn’t community-oriented policing used? Why wasn’t it used in Ferguson?

Under the Urban Justice Act, which I have introduced, it says that communities that rely heavily on fines and other means of funding their government should be diminished accordingly if their whole base of living and funding is just to stop people along the streets. I said racial profiling; the expanding of civilian review boards; the increasing of diversity; which is being tried, unfortunately a little late in Ferguson; the use of conservatorships, of taking over police departments until they get it right; and last but certainly not least, educational reformation in teaching our young boys, our minority boys, along with things like My Brother’s Keeper.

To my colleagues today, this is only the beginning. And I believe, as Martin King said: Where do we go from here? How do we legislate that legislation join with compassion, that it not only be Democrats or members of the Congressional Black Caucus, but we want partners, Republicans who realize that the criminal justice system, as it penetrates into local communities, must be enhanced, changed, and reformed.

How long can we tolerate the shooting down of our children in streets?
And it has nothing to do with one’s respect or lack of respect for law enforcement, from the very high levels of the FBI, DEA, and ATF, to our local constables and sheriffs and police officers.

So tonight my question is: Where do we go from here? The question is a reform question and a justice question. And I would almost say that a special prosecutor should have been the route in Missouri, and I would hope that we would look to legislative fixes with our colleagues to make America better.

The Congressional Black Caucus will not be silenced. Those of us who serve on the respective jurisdictional committees will not be silenced. We will not be silenced because America is better than this, a country that we love.

Where do we go from here? We must fix it, and fix it now.

Mr. JEFFRIES. I thank the distinguished gentleman from Texas for lending her powerful voice to this issue.

We want a fair, impartial, and color-blind criminal justice system. But if we are honest with ourselves, that doesn’t exist for all Americans today, and that undermines the integrity of our democracy. That is not just a Black problem or a police problem, or a Democratic problem or a Republican problem. That is an American problem. That is why the Congressional Black Caucus stands on the House floor here today to jump-start—not just a discussion, but a march toward making meaningful progress as we move toward perfecting equality.

This movement, with its courageous contingent of young activists, is quickly learning, adapting, applying, and innovating on the most effective methods and models of the civil rights movement of previous generations. As this movement continues to grow and takes every opportunity to focus its demands, expand its outreach, develop its activists in the discipline of peaceful direct action, and deepen its understanding of the mass pressure on policymakers, it will cascade not simply to interrupt business as usual, but to generate electoral participation on levels unseen in generations. This movement has the potential to transform the tragedy in Ferguson into a historic turning point in the centuries-long struggle for freedom, justice, and equality.

The Congressional Black Caucus is part of this moment and is a part of this movement. Tens of thousands of Federal, State, and local elected officials, civic leaders, civil rights organizations, activists, clergy, lawyers, educators, artists, athletes, business owners, and hundreds of thousands, if not millions, of ordinary working people of all ages from all over America are part of this movement.

So now is the time for America to come together to reform police practices, redress patterns of racial disparities in the Federal Government to act, for Congress to act, for courts to act, for State legislatures to act, for county and city governments to act.

Now is the time, my friends, to register to vote, because soon, very soon, it will be time to act at the ballot boxes. Only then will these voices be truly heard in every corner of every county and throughout this country. Then the world will know that unwarranted violence and abuse of power has no home in America; injustice has no seat in our democratic institutions.

And only then will we honor the sacrifice of those who have paid the ultimate price and begin to heal a Nation of many who aspire to become one.

And, beyond that, we have come a long way; but yes, indeed, we have a long, long way to go.

I thank the gentleman for the time.

Mr. JEFFRIES. I thank my friend, the distinguished gentleman from New York City, the borough of Queens, Congressman GREGORY MEeks.

Mr. MEeks. I want to thank my friend and colleague, a great attorney, a great legislator, for leading this effort this evening, for not only here on the floor of the House of Representatives but for what you do every day; and, in fact, it is an example of what we could follow, how you lead in your district, especially in Brooklyn.

And I will talk about later, when you saw a prosecutor not do his job, you were one that led in Brooklyn to say the people will get a people’s prosecutor. And folks went to the polls. When someone said it couldn’t be done, where you led and helped make it happen, where an incumbent forgot his way and was not representing the people, you helped people get together to go to the polls and have a new prosecutor in Brooklyn to move forward. We thank you for that leadership.

Today we talk about Black in America. What Ferguson says about where we are and where we need to go.

Now, as Congressman JEFFRIES has said, I am a former prosecutor, so I know about the grand jury system. I know the failure of the grand jury process directed or, as some would argue, manipulated by county prosecutors. Police Officer Darren Wilson in the shooting death of Michael Brown, Jr., an unarmed Ferguson, Missouri, teenager, undermines public confidence in the very notion of equal administration of justice.

Now, when you go before a grand jury, all you have to show is that there is probable cause—probable cause, the lowest standard there is—that a crime was committed. And when you see the process that this prosecutor went through, he tried to try a case, or he came in with a preconceived thought that he did not want an indictment here. I don’t know of any prosecutors that go into the grand jury and don’t at least, after it is all done, ask for an indictment in every case. Mr. McCulloch never asked for an indictment in this case.

The tragic circumstances in Ferguson and other unfortunate instances around the country have sparked a movement for justice, equality, and nonviolence. It is critical to the communities affected by miscarriages of justice. But this movement is not just for those communities. Indeed, the United States of America needs this movement. As others have said, this is an American problem. As Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., once said, “Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.” Racial disparities of any kind are troubling for our entire Nation.

And so, though we have elected President Barack Obama here in the United States, I heard some say that we were in a post-racial America. No, we are not. For racism is still alive and well in the United States of America. We have got work to do.

This movement, with its courageous contingent of young activists, is quickly learning, adapting, applying, and innovating on the most effective methods and models of the civil rights movement of previous generations. As this movement continues to grow and takes every opportunity to focus its demands, expand its outreach, develop its activists in the discipline of peaceful direct action, and deepen its understanding of the mass pressure on policymakers, it will cascade not simply to interrupt business as usual, but to generate electoral participation on levels unseen in generations. This movement has the potential to transform the tragedy in Ferguson into a historic turning point in the centuries-long struggle for freedom, justice, and equality.

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And only then will we honor the sacrifice of those who have paid the ultimate price and begin to heal a Nation of many who aspire to become one.

And now it is my honor and my privilege to yield to a great civil rights leader, a former judge, the distinguished gentleman from the great State of Texas, Representative AL GREEN.

Mr. AL GREEN of Texas. Thank you very much.

Mr. Speaker, I wanted mention Mr. HORSFORD. He is not here tonight, but I have his associate, Mr. JEFFRIES. They have been a great dynamic duo. And they have done outstanding work with these Special Order hours. In his absence, I want to let him know that we still greatly appreciate him and we miss him.

Mr. Speaker, I had a John Carlos moment for edification purposes, John Carlos was the athlete at the 1968 Olympics who went to the podium, along with Tommie Smith, and raised his black-gloved fist in the air in protest at that time a Black Power salute.

At that time, much was said about John Carlos and Tommie Smith. Many people criticized them for taking the podium and making this gesture. They were said to be outside of the mainstream. But I believe that history has vindicated them because they were a part of the avant-garde. They actually were causing many people to understand that the Black Power movement at that time was much bigger than most in thought.

I had a John Carlos moment because I saw this clip where the Rams players came into the arena: Hands up; don’t
It is a movement that is going to continue because young people—a new generation—have decided that they are going to engage themselves in the liberation movement, the freedom movement, if you will, the continuation of what happened in 1968 with John Carlos and Tommy Lee Smith. I want to make sure that those who participated on the Rams team, that their names are chronicled in history. I want Kenny Britt to want people who look back through the years to go to this RECORD. I want Kenny Britt to want people who look back through the years to remember what happened in 1968 with John Carlos and Tommy Lee Smith.

I want people who look back through the years to know who they were when they search the CONGRESSIONAL Record. So I want to add their names to this RECORD. I want Kenny Britt to be recognized, Stedman Bailey to be recognized, Jared Cook, Chris Givens, and Tre Mason. These are persons who in the course of their lives will be acknowledged as a part the avant-garde.

I want people to know also that I appreciate and support what the President is doing with his executive action. I support what he is doing with body cameras, and I support what he is doing with body cameras because I believe that body cameras can exonerate, and they can as well incriminate. They can exonerate officers who are falsely accused. They can provide empirical evidence of what actually transpired. There won’t be “he said” or “she said.” There will be the empirical evidence of what the camera actually saw. They can also incriminate those who would try to perpetrate a fraud upon the American people. Body cameras can identify those who would engage in criminal conduct and then try to excise their conduct with words that don’t match what the camera will reveal.

I believe in body cameras. This is why I have filed H.R. 5407, the TIP Act, Transparency in Policing. The TIP Act would cause the Justice Department to examine the circumstance in this country, the costs for body cameras, and would then allow those jurisdictions that wish to incorporate body cameras into their police departments, there would be an exemption for them, but would require those generally speaking who receive Federal dollars to move to body cameras.

I regret that I support what he is doing with body cameras and I support what he is doing with body cameras because I believe that body cameras can exonerate, and they can as well incriminate. They can exonerate officers who are falsely accused. They can provide empirical evidence of what actually transpired. There won’t be “he said” or “she said.” There will be the empirical evidence of what the camera actually saw. They can also incriminate those who would try to perpetrate a fraud upon the American people. Body cameras can identify those who would engage in criminal conduct and then try to excise their conduct with words that don’t match what the camera will reveal.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman has approximately 14 minutes remaining.

Mr. JEFFRIES. It is now my honor and privilege to yield to the gentlewoman from New York, Congresswoman YVETTE CLARKE, my good friend. She is a distinguished Congresswoman who represents the neighboring district at home in Brooklyn. She is a fighter for justice and a voice for the voiceless.

Ms. CLARKE of New York. Hands up, don’t shoot.

I thank my colleague and friend, Mr. JEFFRIES of Brooklyn, New York, for his tremendous leadership both here in Washington, D.C., and at home in New York.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to join my colleagues in the Congressional Black Caucus to discuss being black in America and what the injustice in Ferguson, Missouri, says about where we are and where we need to go as a civil society. I first want to, once again, offer my condolences to the family of Michael Brown, whose efforts to secure justice on behalf of their son were undermined by the decision of the grand jury. The killing of Michael Brown and attacks by the Ferguson Police Department on protesters demonstrate an assumption that young women and men who are African American are inherently suspicious—a false assumption with deadly consequences.

So where do we go from here? We must not allow this false assumption to prevail in our Nation, in our society. We cannot and will not accept the devaluation of African American lives. We have seen this scenario play out too many times in recent years, even in my hometown in Brooklyn, New York, where we are still reeling from the recent killing of Akai Gurley, an unarmed young man on probation at New York City police officer.

This killing comes on the heels of the homicide by a choke hold of Eric Garner on Staten Island, again, in New York City.

Mr. Speaker, it is deeply disappointing that as we observe the 50th anniversary of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 we are still trying to fulfill the promise of the 14th Amendment, of equal protection under the law. While the Civil Rights Act of 1964 transformed our Nation by prohibiting discrimination based on race, religion, color, sex, and national origin at work, in schools, and in other public facilities, and what the injustice in Ferguson, Missouri, says about where we are and where we need to go as a civil society. I fully support the steps announced today by the Obama administration to strengthen community trust and fortify the trust that must exist between law enforcement officers and the communities they serve. I have been a vocal advocate for better relations between the community and law enforcement. The police officers’ sole mission is to serve and protect the people with dignity, integrity, and respect, we must focus on achieving that mission. I pledge to work with my constituents, the Obama administration, and other officials across this country—especially in New York City—to restore public trust and to establish a more enlightened policing strategy, and to prevent such incidents in the future.

So, again, I would like to thank Mr. JEFFRIES for his leadership. I want to thank the CBC, the conscience of the Congress, for holding this timely Special Order. To all Americans who are disturbed by the demonstrations that are taking place across this Nation, I want you to remember these four words: no justice, no peace.

Mr. JEFFRIES. Thank you, Congresswoman CLARKE.

Mr. Speaker. Akai Gurley in Brooklyn did not deserve to die. Tamir Rice in Cleveland did not deserve to die. Michael Brown in Ferguson did not deserve to die. The Congressional Black Caucus determines to make sure that these and many other deaths at the hands of law enforcement resulting from the use of excessive force will not be in vain.
Mr. Speaker, it is now my honor and my privilege to yield to the distinguished gentleman from the great State of Indiana, Congressman André Carson, one of the mighty voices of the hip-hop generation here in the United States Congress who powerfully represents his district.

Mr. CARSON of Indiana. I have to acknowledge my colleague, my friend, my brother, and leader, not only nationally but internationally, but especially in Brooklyn, for his boldness, his tenacity, his intestinal fortitude, and his ability as a sitting Member of Congress to still speak truth to power, Congressman Jeffries.

Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to express my deepest condolences to the Brown family, who lost their son far too soon. As a parent, I can only imagine their pain and grief. Mr. Speaker, no parent should have to go through such an ordeal.

As a young African American man, I can relate to the frustration being felt on the streets of Ferguson and streets across our country. The history of this great Nation, Mr. Speaker, past and present, is plagued with incidents of bigotry and discrimination in our justice system. Racial injustice continues to affect our communities, and with each incident like this one, old wounds are reopened. The feelings felt in Ferguson are real and cannot and should not be discounted.

Mr. Speaker, many right now feel abandoned by our justice system or unfairly singled out for suspicion. These are very legitimate concerns that cannot be ignored or overshadowed by those who have turned to violence.

Now, as a former police officer, Mr. Speaker, I want to say I do respect our system of justice, but I also recognize the shortcomings. We certainly have a long way to go to guarantee our country’s children of color are protected equally under the law in every instance, every neighborhood, and all across this great Nation. Mr. Speaker, no community should have to doubt whether justice has prevailed when a decision like this one has been handed down.

We must not let Michael Brown’s death be in vain. That would be a disgrace. That would be a tragedy. Today, our Nation is still struggling to heal. But this cannot truly happen until we honestly assess how justice is provided across our country.

This process starts with peaceful protests, yes, but it ends with lasting reforms that protect all Americans equally, Mr. Speaker. This will not be easy or quick. But what is clear to me that this march toward a better, more equitable country must begin with a unified front.

Now through this tragedy we should bring about lasting change. And so tonight on that note, I want to ask, Mr. Speaker, all of my colleagues, fellow Americans, to stand with the Congressional Black Caucus to make this dream a reality.

Mr. Jeffries. I thank the distinguished gentleman for his eloquent remarks.

Mr. Speaker, let me now yield to the distinguished gentleman from Maryland, the great Elijah Cummings, for his remarks.

Mr. Cummings. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. Jeffries for calling this Special Order tonight.

Let me say to America, whenever a law enforcement officer shoots and kills an unarmed citizen in this great country, America has a problem. I want us to be very careful that we don’t become distracted and not address the issue.

I know that we in the Congressional Black Caucus make sure that we don’t get involved in motion, commotion, and emotion and no results, and that is what this is all about because the thing that we are talking about is trying to bring about change, not just for our young people today, but for generations yet unborn.

Let me just briefly state that I am very pleased with what the President did today. I think how to find the right direction, the effort to get body cameras, 50,000 of them, and to establish a task force.

Right after Ferguson happened, I, along with a hundred other leaders, wrote to the President, and we just asked for certain things, and I will name them, and then I will yield back because I know we have limited time.

We asked that DOJ develop a training for law enforcement officers to counteract racial bias, renewed focus on diversity hiring and retention among law enforcement professionals, grants to support engagement with youth in the communities these officers serve, call for the demilitarization and reduction of excessive weaponry among our law enforcement professionals, call for DOJ oversight of law enforcement practices, and increased accountability through national standards for investigation into cases of inappropriate police behavior.

We in the Congressional Black Caucus will continue this fight. To the Brown family, you have our condolences, but we know that you want to make sure that change is brought about. We promise you that we are going to do everything in our power to make that happen.

Mr. Jeffries. I thank the distinguished gentleman from Maryland.

I now yield to one of my colleagues in the freshman class, soon to be a dynamic sophomore, the distinguished gentleman from Ohio (Mrs. Beatty).

Mrs. Beatty. Mr. Speaker, it is indeed my honor to stand here not only with the members of the Congressional Black Caucus, but with you, Congresswoman Jeffries, for the work you have done.

Today, I have a heavy heart as we stand here as members of the Congressional Black Caucus on the topic of being Black in America, what Ferguson says about where we are and where we need to go.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to start by expressing my deepest condolences to the family of Michael Brown as his death was under my watch. The “Gentle Giant,” as Michael was nicknamed by his family members, will not be forgotten, nor what his loss represents. Michael Brown had a promising future before his life was cut short by police force by police that fateful day in August.

The Speaker pro tempore (Mr. Rothfus). The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. Jeffries. Mr. Speaker, we have come a long way. We still have a long way to go. We look forward to marching toward a more perfect Union.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Equality for All

The Speaker pro tempore. Under the Speaker’s announced policy of January 3, 2013, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. Gohmert) is recognized for 60 minutes as the desigee of the majority leader.

Mr. Gohmert. Mr. Speaker, there are some Members who wanted to be heard from the prior Special Order, and they didn’t have a chance, and I am glad to yield to my friend, Mr. Jeffries, so they may conclude.

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Mr. Jeffries. I thank my good friend, a very important member of the Judiciary Committee, for graciously yielding a few moments for us to close this very important Special Order.

I yield to Congresswoman Joyce Beatty to finish her remarks as we prepare to conclude this CBC Special Order. Again, I thank Congressman Gohmert for graciously yielding a few moments of his time.

Mrs. Beatty. Mr. Speaker, I thank my good friend, a very important member of the Judiciary Committee, and my colleagues. Let me continue and be very brief and just say Michael Brown had a promising future before his life was cut short by police gunfire on that fateful Saturday in August.

He was supposed to start technical college this past fall, planning to become a heating and cooling engineer one day. He hoped to start his own business. He strove to set an example for his younger siblings, teaching them to stay in school and further their education—instead, a violent loss.

Michael Brown fell victim to a criminal justice system that too often fails people of color. Mr. Speaker, unfortunately, he is now another Black male whose full promise and potential will never be realized because his life was taken too early by the very department created to protect and serve his community, the Ferguson Police Department.

Mr. Speaker, I think it is appropriate that the Congressional Black Caucus is on the floor today discussing being Black in America. The CBC is the conscience of the Congress and, in many