

I turn back to my colleague from New Jersey, Congressman DONALD PAYNE.

Mr. PAYNE. Thank you, Ms. KELLY. We appreciate your comments.

In closing, I would like to thank you for cohosting the Special Order on criminal justice reform, accountability, and diversity. It is through these Special Orders that we are able to speak directly to our constituents about the valuable work the Congressional Black Caucus does to reduce injustice and promote equality for all African American communities.

Our criminal justice and police systems are in a state of crisis. Too often, under these systems, Black lives are treated as though they don't matter. We saw this last month, when Baltimore's Freddie Gray died in police custody from a brutal spine injury. Such tragedies erode trust between our communities and the police.

This problem is compounded by a wide range of factors, from disturbing gaps in incarceration rates to racial disparities in sentencing. We need a system that holds criminals accountable and protects law enforcement while, at the same time, ensuring the safety and equal treatment of all communities.

This includes implementing police body cameras in order to promote transparency and accountability while deterring wrongdoing.

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At the same time, we need to make sure that law enforcement officers don't resort to discriminatory policing practices.

It is undeniable that racial profiling remains an ongoing crisis in our Nation. There is a clear and growing need to ensure a robust and comprehensive Federal commitment to ending racial profiling by law enforcement agencies. The End Racial Profiling Act, which I proudly support, would do just that. It was constructed after a law in New Jersey, authored by my uncle, Assemblyman William Payne. It was the first racial profiling law passed in the United States, a law of which I am very proud. I took that idea and brought it Federal.

Of course, real accountability means that we will, at times, need independent investigations of police-related deaths. We are glad to see, finally, Attorney General Lynch launch an investigation into the Baltimore Police Department, with the stated goal of assisting police departments across the country in developing their practices. In less than 1 month on the job, Attorney General Lynch is already making a difference, and we thank her for that.

As we reflect on the dire need for the reform of our criminal justice system, we need to advance the cause of equality in all contexts. This means expanding diversity in the workforce, in health, and in all aspects of life—from the mailroom to the boardroom, from

the manufacturing industry to the technology sector. Many of these challenges we face today are great, but as a caucus, we remain committed to solving them.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today along with my colleagues of the Congressional Black Caucus, in support of today's Special Order Hour: "The Urgency of Now: Addressing Reform, Accountability, Equality and Diversity." As the conscience of the Congress since 1971, these issues are of paramount importance to the Congressional Black Caucus in the 114th Congress.

There is a crisis in America—one that centers on criminal justice reform and law enforcement accountability. Just over a month ago, Freddie Gray lost his life at the hands of the police in a city plagued by a weak economy, high levels of crime, and a lack of good-paying jobs. While Baltimore is a city with a unique set of issues, its problems are common to many of America's inner cities. The pressure to address, not only the police accountability and criminal justice issues, but the context in which those issues arise, grows exponentially with each new tragedy.

As we watch American cities battered, bruised and burned during demonstrative outcries against injustice, I am reminded of the words of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. "We are now faced with the fact that tomorrow is today. We are confronted with the fierce urgency of now. In this unfolding conundrum of life and history, there "is" such a thing as being too late. This is no time for apathy or complacency. This is a time for vigorous and positive action." These words are just as true today as they were when Dr. King delivered them at the 1963 March on Washington.

Far too often, unarmed African American men die at the hands at police officers with little or no accountability. This reinforces the painful narrative that black life is not valued in this country. It is sad, yet very telling, that Americans celebrated when state officials announced that criminal charges were being brought against the Baltimore police involved in Freddie Gray's death. For too long, African-American communities nationwide felt as if no one could hear its cry. But the cries are not just the result of pain caused by police brutality. They are the result of a nation divided: one that grants access to quality healthcare to some, while denying it for others; one that provides economic security for a privileged few, while denying opportunities to the poor and the middle class; one that seeks justice for the unwarranted taking of a human life; while ignoring the rising death toll of American youth at the hands of police officers.

We cannot view the situations in Baltimore and Ferguson as limited incidents; instead, we have to look at the toxic environments that birthed these situations of unrest. If we do not comprehensively address the systemic issues that plague cities like Baltimore, relations between the people and its government will only grow worse. It is time that we honor the sacred truth of this nation—that all men are created equal, and demand equal justice. As we strive to become a more perfected union, it is imperative that the commitments of the American system be applied to African-Americans, just as it is to every other American. Madam Speaker, the urgency of addressing these issues has reached its pinnacle. Congress

must act. We must act swiftly, and we must act now.

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

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1806, AMERICA COMPETES REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2015; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2250, LEGISLATIVE BRANCH APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2016; AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2353, HIGHWAY AND TRANSPORTATION FUNDING ACT OF 2015

Mr. SESSIONS (during the Special Order of Mr. PAYNE) from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 114-120) on the resolution (H. Res. 271) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1806) to provide for technological innovation through the prioritization of Federal investment in basic research, fundamental scientific discovery, and development to improve the competitiveness of the United States, and for other purposes; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2250) making appropriations for the Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes; and providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2353) to provide an extension of Federal-aid highway, highway safety, motor carrier safety, transit, and other programs funded out of the Highway Trust Fund, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

THE PRESIDENT'S 2016 BUDGET REQUEST AND ENERGY POLICY FOR THE UNITED STATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2015, the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. GRAVES) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I thank the House for the opportunity to talk this evening about the 2016 President's budget request and energy policy in this Nation.

Madam Speaker, there are a number of energy programs in this Nation whereby public lands resources are leased and energy is produced on public lands and in the offshore waters of this Nation.

As you can see here, this is a table that explains some of the different programs that are out there today.

Onshore, on Federal lands, when you produce Federal resources—or energy resources—like oil, gas, coal, and other resources, you can see that 50 percent of the funds from that energy production on Federal lands goes to the Federal Government and that 50 percent goes to the States under the Mineral Leasing Act. There are no constraints whatsoever in regard to how those