

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. RES. 988

Condemning all acts of police brutality, racial profiling, and the use of excessive and militarized force throughout the country.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 1, 2020

Ms. PRESSLEY (for herself, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. CLYBURN, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. COX of California, Ms. ESCOBAR, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Ms. FUDGE, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. HASTINGS, Mrs. HAYES, Mr. HORSFORD, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. JEFFRIES, Ms. JOHNSON of Texas, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. KHANNA, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. NORTON, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Mr. POCAN, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. RICHMOND, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. TLAIB, Mrs. TRAHAN, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. NADLER, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. ESHOO, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Ms. OMAR, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. BASS, Ms. ADAMS, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Ms. UNDERWOOD, Mr. MEEKS, Ms. MENG, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, and Mr. WELCH) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

RESOLUTION

Condemning all acts of police brutality, racial profiling, and the use of excessive and militarized force throughout the country.

Whereas police brutality and the use of excessive and militarized force are among the most serious ongoing human rights and civil liberties violations in the United States and have led to community destabilization, a decrease in

public safety, and the exacerbation of structural inequities;

Whereas the system of policing in America, and its systemic targeting of and use of deadly and brutal force against people of color, particularly Black people, stems from the long legacy of slavery, lynching, Jim Crow laws, and the War on Drugs in the United States and has been perpetuated by violent and harmful law enforcement practices;

Whereas contemporary police practices that employ policing for low level offenses or so called “broken windows” policing, as well as expanded and excessively militarized policing, has led to mass criminalization, heightened violence, and mass incarceration that disproportionately impacts Black and Brown people;

Whereas data shows there is a direct correlation between the increased militarization of a police department and corresponding levels of police brutality;

Whereas police use of force is among the leading causes of death for young men of color;

Whereas Black people, including Black women and girls, Native Americans, and Latinos are killed by police at disproportionately higher rates than their White peers;

Whereas people with disabilities and other historically marginalized communities, including LGBTQ+ individuals, immigrants, and those experiencing homelessness are significantly more likely to be criminalized and targets of police violence;

Whereas police brutality and the use of excessive force have robbed countless communities of precious lives, have inflicted intergenerational harm and trauma to families, and are intensifying our Nation’s mental health crisis;

Whereas police in the United States, through acts of brutality and the use of excessive force, kill far more people than police in other comparable nations and have been historically shielded from accountability;

Whereas the killings of hundreds each year, and the demonstrations that followed have brought sustained national attention to the racially biased police violence against people;

Whereas the House of Representatives finds that the conduct of police officers who engage in racial profiling and excessive force, which can include shootings, brutal beatings, fatal chokings, and any other excessive treatment is a violation of the Constitution of the United States;

Whereas the House of Representatives finds that the rule of law in the United States is undermined when police officers engage in conduct inconsistent with the Constitution of the United States; and

Whereas the House of Representatives has a moral and constitutional obligation to protect the civil rights and liberties of all people from police abuses: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2 (1) condemns all acts of brutality, racial
3 profiling, and the use of excessive force by law en-
4 forcement officers and calls for the end of milita-
5 rized policing practices;

6 (2) supports strengthening efforts to eliminate
7 instances of excessive use of force, and conduct
8 stringent oversight and independent investigations

1 into instances of police brutality, racial profiling,
2 and excessive use of force, and hold individual law
3 enforcement officers and police departments ac-
4 countable, including—

5 (A) calling on the Department of Justice

6 to—

7 (i) reinstate its role in investigating
8 individual instances of police brutality, vio-
9 lence, and racial profiling, and police de-
10 partments that violate civil rights; and

11 (ii) take on a role in filing briefs urg-
12 ing courts to reconsider decisions that per-
13 mit unreasonable and excessive police prac-
14 tices and establish meaningful oversight of
15 consent decrees; and

16 (B) establishing independent all-civilian re-
17 view boards, with the authority to effectively in-
18 vestigate incidents of police misconduct, to en-
19 sure meaningful community level oversight,
20 transparency, accountability, and discipline of
21 police officers; and

22 (3) calls for the adoption of sound and unbiased
23 law enforcement policies at all levels of government
24 that reduce the disparate impact of police brutality

- 1 and use of force on Black and Brown people and
- 2 other historically marginalized communities.

