

teens on the opposite sex's changes during puberty, and normalize these changes as they are inevitable. Mandating sexual education in schools will give students a coherent safe space to learn about these topics, which might not be offered and found from other inaccurate sources which leads to false information and mis-interpretations.

While this might be a tedious and drawn out process, our legislature should mandate sexual education across the nation by making a federal law. This law would teach an all inclusive comprehensive curriculum across all states. Overall this would positively affect teens all across America and would take a step towards a brighter and better future. Along with this federal mandate we need to make teens and young adults have access to a planned parenthood or a trusted medically accurate source to trust and rely on for information. Especially during these strenuous times during this pandemic, the availability of these sources are more crucial than ever.

FATIMA KHAN, ESSEX HIGH SCHOOL, JUNIOR

July 17, 2014: "I Can't Breathe." These were the last words of Eric Garner. A 43-year-old father of six children. A man who was known as the "neighborhood peacemaker." Eric Garner was an unarmed black man, who was choked to death by Daniel Pantaleo, a New York City police officer, as he repeatedly pleaded for him to stop.

May 25, 2020: "I Can't Breathe." These were the last words of George Floyd. A 46-year-old father of one daughter. A man who wanted to "touch the world." George Floyd was an unarmed black man, who died when Minneapolis police officer, Derek Chauvin, pressed his knee into his neck, for 8 minutes and 46 seconds, as he repeatedly pleaded for him to stop.

The murder of Eric Garner, in 2014, ignited fierce emotions and propelled people into action, all over the country. A developing project which began as a response to the murder of Trayvon Martin, was beginning to receive national attention. It was known as Black Lives Matter. Today, BLM is one of the most influential social movements today, and among many human rights issues, it has awakened the eyes of the nation to the issue of police brutality.

Although we have come a long way in our work against police brutality since 2014, there is still plenty of work to do. Black Americans are disproportionately affected by police violence across the US. According to Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, black Americans are 3.23 times more likely than white Americans to be killed by police. In order to truly combat this issue, there needs to be a reformation of our police departments.

To do so, the responsibilities of police officers relating to mental health, homelessness, and drug abuse, needs to be pared back. According to the US Department of Justice, there are over 10 million arrests, annually. Only a small fraction of those are violent crimes. This makes the US the world's largest jailer, housing about 25 percent of the world's prisoners. Police departments are overworked and our jails are overcrowded. Overcriminalization has led to mass incarceration in our criminal justice system. To address overcriminalization, policymakers should consider what offenses result in conviction and prison time, and reduce arrestable offenses. More resources should be put into education and training for officers, not arrests. Additionally, more mental health professionals should be deployed as first responders.

We also have to hold every police officer accountable to the law. Too many times, police officers who have broken the law, haven't faced adequate consequences for

their actions, because of qualified immunity. Qualified immunity has protected police officers in cases where they have disgustingly abused their power. Victims whose constitutional rights have been violated have been denied justice. By altering this doctrine, we can ensure that nobody is above the law. Increasing the consequences of misconduct, will weed out the bad apples in our police departments.

By critically reforming our police departments, we can ensure a more equitable future for all Americans.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Ridgway, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE

REPORT ON THE CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY ORIGINALLY DECLARED IN EXECUTIVE ORDER 13660 OF MARCH 6, 2014, WITH RESPECT TO UKRAINE—PM 4

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, within 90 days prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice stating that the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13660 of March 6, 2014, with respect to Ukraine is to continue in effect beyond March 6, 2021.

The actions and policies of persons that undermine democratic processes and institutions in Ukraine; threaten its peace, security, stability, sovereignty, and territorial integrity; and contribute to the misappropriation of its assets, and the actions and policies of the Government of the Russian Federation, including its purported annexation of Crimea and its use of force in

Ukraine, continue to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States. Therefore, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13660 with respect to Ukraine.

JOSEPH R. BIDEN, Jr.
THE WHITE HOUSE, March 2, 2021.

PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE

REPORT RELATIVE TO THE CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY THAT WAS DECLARED IN EXECUTIVE ORDER 13692 OF MARCH 8, 2015, WITH RESPECT TO THE SITUATION IN VENEZUELA—PM 5

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, within 90 days prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice stating that the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13692 of March 8, 2015, with respect to the situation in Venezuela is to continue in effect beyond March 8, 2021.

The situation in Venezuela continues to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States. Therefore, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13692 with respect to the situation in Venezuela.

JOSEPH R. BIDEN, Jr.
THE WHITE HOUSE, March 2, 2021.

PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE

REPORT ON THE CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY ORIGINALLY DECLARED IN EXECUTIVE ORDER 13288 OF MARCH 6, 2003, WITH RESPECT TO THE ACTIONS AND POLICIES OF CERTAIN MEMBERS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF ZIMBABWE AND OTHER PERSONS TO UNDERMINE ZIMBABWE'S DEMOCRATIC PROCESSES OR INSTITUTIONS—PM 6

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United