



Cosponsor the End Racial Profiling Act of 2011 H.R. 3618

April 16, 2012

Dear Representative:

On behalf of The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, and the undersigned organizations, we urge you to cosponsor the End Racial Profiling Act of 2011 (ERPA). Passage of this bill is needed to put an end to racial profiling by law enforcement officials and to ensure that individuals are not prejudicially stopped, investigated, arrested, or detained based on their race, ethnicity, national origin, or religion. Policies primarily designed to impact certain groups are ineffective and often result in the destruction of civil liberties for everyone.

ERPA would establish a prohibition on racial profiling, enforceable by declaratory or injunctive relief. The legislation would mandate training for federal law enforcement officials on racial profiling issues. As a condition of receiving federal funding, state, local, and Indian tribal law enforcement agencies would be required to collect data on both routine and spontaneous investigatory activities. The Department of Justice would be authorized to provide grants to state and local law enforcement agencies for the development and implementation of best policing practices, such as early warning systems, technology integration, and other management protocols that discourage profiling. Lastly, this important legislation would require the Attorney General to issue periodic reports to Congress assessing the nature of any ongoing racial profiling.

Racial profiling involves the unwarranted screening of certain groups of people, assumed by the police and other law enforcement agents to be predisposed to criminal behavior. Multiple studies have proven that racial profiling results in the misallocation of law enforcement resources and therefore a failure to identify actual crimes that are planned and committed. By relying on stereotypes rather than proven investigative procedures, the lives of innocent people are needlessly harmed by law enforcement agencies and officials.

As is evident by recent events across the nation, racial profiling is a pervasive and harmful practice that negatively impacts both individuals and communities. Racial profiling results in a loss of trust and confidence in local, state, and federal law enforcement. Although most individuals are taught from an early age that the role of law enforcement is to fairly defend and guard communities from people who want to cause harm to others, this fundamental message is often contradicted when these same defenders are seen as unnecessarily and unjustifiably harassing innocent citizens. Criminal investigations are flawed and hindered because people and



communities impacted by these stereotypes are less likely to cooperate with law enforcement agencies they have grown to mistrust. We can begin to reestablish trust in law enforcement if we act now.

Current federal law enforcement guidance and state laws provide incomplete solutions to the pervasive nationwide problem of racial profiling.

Your support for the End Racial Profiling Act of 2011 is critical to its passage. We urge you to cosponsor this vital legislation, which will ensure that federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies are prohibited from impermissibly considering race, ethnicity, national origin, or religion in carrying out law enforcement activities. To become a cosponsor, please contact Keenan Keller, Counsel on the Committee on Judiciary at keenan.keller@mail.house.gov or (202) 225-6906. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Lexer Quamie at (202) 466-3648 or Nancy Zirkin at (202) 263-2880. Thank you for your valued consideration of this critical legislation.

Sincerely,

National Organizations

A. Philip Randolph Institute
African American Ministers in Action
American Civil Liberties Union
American Humanist Association
American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee
American Probation and Parole Association
Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum
Asian American Justice Center
Asian Law Caucus
Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance
Bill of Rights Defense Committee
Blacks in Law Enforcement in America
Break the Cycle
Brennan Center for Justice at New York University School of Law
Campaign for Community Change
Campaign for Youth Justice
Center for National Security Studies
Charles Hamilton Houston Institute for Race and Justice at Harvard Law School
Council on American-Islamic Relations
Council on Illicit Drugs of the National Association for Public Health Policy
Disciples Justice Action Network
Drug Policy Alliance
Equal Justice Society



Fair Immigration Reform Movement
Fellowship of Reconciliation
Human Rights Watch
Indo-American Center
Institute Justice Team, Sisters of Mercy of the Americas
Japanese American Citizens League
Jewish Labor Committee
Jewish Reconstructionist Federation
Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law
The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights
League of United Latin American Citizens
Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service
Muslim Advocates
Muslim Legal Fund of America
Muslim Public Affairs Council
NAACP
NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc.
National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd
National African American Drug Policy Coalition, Inc.
National Alliance for Medication Assisted Recovery
National Alliance of Faith and Justice
National Asian American Pacific Islander Mental Health Association
National Asian Pacific American Bar Association
National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum
National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers
National Association of Social Workers
National Black Justice Coalition
National Black Law Students Association
National Black Police Association
National Congress of American Indians
National Council of La Raza
National Education Association
National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Action Fund
National Korean American Service and Education Consortium
National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health
National Lawyers Guild Drug Policy Committee
National Legal Aid and Defender Association
National Organization of Black Women in Law Enforcement
National Organization of Sisters of Color Ending Sexual Assault
National Urban League Policy Institute
NETWORK, A National Catholic Social Justice Lobby
9to5, National Association of Working Women
North American South Asian Bar Association

Open Society Policy Center
Organization of Chinese Americans
Pax Christi USA: National Catholic Peace Movement
Prison Policy Initiative
Rights Working Group
Sentencing Project
Sikh American Legal Defense and Education Fund
Sikh Coalition
SOJOURNERS
South Asian Americans Leading Together
South Asian Network
South Asian Resource Action Center
StoptheDrugWar.org
The Real Cost of Prisons Project
Treatment Communities of America
U.S. Human Rights Network
Union for Reform Judaism
United Methodist Church, General Board of Church and Society
UNITED SIKHS
Women's Alliance for Theology, Ethics and Ritual

State and Local Organizations

A New PATH (Parents for Addiction Treatment & Healing) (California)
Adhikaar (New York)
Advocare, Inc. (Ohio)
Arab American Action Network (Illinois)
Arab-American Family Support Center (New York)
CASA de Maryland (Maryland)
Casa Esperanza (New Jersey)
CAUSA - Oregon's Immigrant Rights Organization (Oregon)
Center for NuLeadership on Urban Solutions (New York)
Counselors Helping (South) Asians/Indians, Inc. (Maryland)
Desis Rising Up and Moving (New York)
Drug Policy Forum of Hawaii (Hawaii)
Drug Policy Forum of Texas (Texas)
Florida Immigrant Coalition (Florida)
Healing Communities Prison Ministry and Reentry Project (Pennsylvania)
Korean American Resource and Cultural Center (Illinois)
Korean Resource Center (California)
Legal Services for Prisoners with Children (California)
Legal Voice (Washington)
Maryland CURE - Citizens United for the Rehabilitation of Errants (Maryland)
National Alliance for Medication Assisted Recovery, Delaware Chapter (Delaware)



9to5 Atlanta Working Women (Georgia)
9to5 Bay Area (California)
9to5 Colorado (Colorado)
9to5 Los Angeles (California)
9to5 Milwaukee (Wisconsin)
Perspectives, Inc. (Minnesota)
Pineros y Campesinos Unidos del Noroeste –
Northwest Treeplanters and Farmworkers United (Oregon)
Public Justice Center (Maryland)
Rights for All People (Colorado)
Safe Streets Arts Foundation (Washington, DC)
Sahara of South Florida, Inc. (Florida)
Satrang (California)
Sneha, Inc. (Connecticut)
South Asian Bar Association of Northern California (California)
St. Leonard's Ministries (Illinois)