



July 7, 2016

The Honorable Chuck Grassley  
Chairman  
Senate Judiciary Committee  
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patrick Leahy  
Ranking Member  
Senate Judiciary Committee  
152 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Robert Goodlatte  
Chairman  
House Judiciary Committee  
2138 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John Conyers  
Ranking Member  
House Judiciary Committee  
B-336 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

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TREASURER

Dear Chairman Grassley, Ranking Member Leahy, Chairman Goodlatte, and Ranking Member Conyers:

The fatal police shootings of people of color over the past two years have focused on alleged misconduct of a few officers – and that is a necessary process that must occur regardless of whether we agree with the specific results of the cases. But recent events, as tragic and controversial as they are, also give this country the opportunity to go beyond just dealing with a few bad apples and to reform an entire system. Fairness and justice demand that we seize this opportunity. And Congress serves an important function in building trust and legitimacy between law enforcement and the communities they serve.

For nearly 100 years, the American Civil Liberties Union has been our nation's guardian of liberty, working in courts, legislatures, and communities to defend and preserve the individual rights and liberties that the Constitution and the laws of the United States guarantee everyone in this country. Consistent with this mission, the ACLU advocates for federal reforms that will prevent another Baltimore, Baton Rouge, Cleveland, Falcon Heights, Ferguson, Grapevine, Los Angeles, Milwaukee, Minneapolis, New York City, North Charleston, Oklahoma City, Pasco, and the next city where there will be tragedy if we maintain the status quo.

As the Committees with primary jurisdiction over law enforcement reform, your role is critical. We commend your Committee hearings on policing issues this Congress, but it is past time that you take action. There must be accountability for

the billions of dollars and resources law enforcement and the criminal justice system receive annually from the federal government. Therefore, the ACLU implores the Committees and this Congress to consider the following police reform legislation:

**Law Enforcement Trust and Integrity Act** (H.R. 2875 (Conyers) / S. 2168 (Cardin)), which provides accreditation, training, and other federal resources to law enforcement, as well as requires data collection on police-community encounters.

**Preventing Tragedies Between Police and Communities Act** (H.R. 5221 (Moore)), which requires de-escalation training that focuses on the preservation of life for law enforcement agencies that receive federal funds.

**End Racial Profiling Act** (H.R. 1933 (Conyers) / S. 1056 (Cardin)), which prohibits federal, state, and local law enforcement from engaging in racial profiling.

**Stop Militarizing Law Enforcement Act** (H.R. 1232 (H. Johnson) / S. 1441 (Paul)), which demilitarizes police by prohibiting the transfer of offensive military weapons from the federal government to state and local law enforcement.

**Police CAMERA Act** (H.R. 1680 (Brown) / S. 877 (Schatz)), which provides federal resources for state and local law enforcement agencies to develop safe and effective body-worn camera programs that also protect civilians' privacy rights.

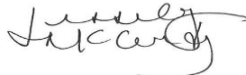
**The DUE PROCESS Act** (H.R. 5283 (Sensenbrenner) / S. 3045 (Grassley)), which provides procedural protections for those subjected to civil forfeiture.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We look forward to your reply. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Kanya Bennett, Legislative Counsel, at [kbennett@aclu.org](mailto:kbennett@aclu.org) or (202) 675-2307.

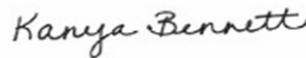
Sincerely,



Karin Johanson  
Director, Washington Office



Jesselyn McCurdy  
Deputy Director



Kanya Bennett  
Legislative Counsel

cc: The Honorable Mitch McConnell, Senate Majority Leader  
The Honorable Harry Reid, Senate Minority Leader  
The Honorable Paul Ryan, House Speaker  
The Honorable Nancy Pelosi, House Minority Leader