



Cosponsor the End Racial Profiling Act of 2011

September 14, 2011

Dear Senator:

On behalf of The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, and the undersigned groups, we urge you to be an original cosponsor of 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.

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 become an original co-sponsor of 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 an original co-sponsor, please contact Bill Van Horne in Senator Cardin's office at bill_vanhorne@cardin.senate.gov or (202) 224-4524. 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,

Adhikaar
African American Ministers in Action
American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee
American Civil Liberties Union
American Humanist Association
Asian American Justice Center,
 member of Asian American Center for Advancing Justice
Asian Law Caucus
Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance
Bill of Rights Defense Committee
The Brennan Center for Justice
Counselors Helping (South)Asians/Inc.
Disciples Justice Action Network
Drug Policy Alliance
DRUM - Desis Rising Up and Moving
Healing Communities Prison Ministry and Reentry Project
Human Rights Watch
Indo-American Center
Institute Justice Team, Sisters of Mercy of the Americas
Japanese American Citizens League
Korean American Resource & Cultural Center
Korean Resource Center
Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law
The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights
Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service
Muslim Advocates
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 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 Police Association
National Congress of American Indians
National Council of La Raza
National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Action Fund
National Korean American Service & Education Consortium
NETWORK, A National Catholic Social Justice Lobby
OCA
Pax Christi USA
Rights Working Group
Sahara of South Florida, Inc.
Sentencing Project
Sojourners
Sikh American Legal Defense and Education Fund
Sikh Coalition
Sneha, Inc.
South Asian Americans Leading Together
StoptheDrugWar.org
Union for Reform Judaism
United Methodist Church, General Board of Church and Society
UNITED SIKHS
US Human Rights Network