

Blacks In Government® 2020 National Delegates Assembly Virtual Meeting



RESOLUTION

BLACKS IN GOVERNMENT SUPPORTS THE LAW
ENFORCEMENT REFORM LEGISLATION INTRODUCED IN THE U.S.
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES BY URGING ALL CONGRESSIONAL
LEADERS IN BOTH THE U.S. SENATE AND HOUSE TO SUPPORT
PASSAGE OF H.R.7120, GEORGE FLOYD JUSTICE IN POLICING ACT
OF 2020, 116th CONGRESS (2019-2020)

WHEREAS, the National Organization of Blacks In Government (BIG), was incorporated in 1976, as a 501[c]3 non-profit organization to, educate and advocate on behalf of Federal, State and Municipal government employees and today, BIG seeks to represent 2.5 million public and private civil servants by continuing to address discrimination in the workplace and its effect on public service; and

WHEREAS, on June 8, 2020 H.R. 7120 was introduced in the 116th U.S. Congress (2019-2020) House of Representatives as the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act of 2020; and

WHEREAS, the bill addresses a wide range of policies and issues regarding policing practices and law enforcement accountability. It includes measures to increase accountability for law enforcement misconduct, to enhance transparency and data collection, and to eliminate discriminatory policing practices; and

WHEREAS, the bill facilitates federal enforcement of constitutional violations (e.g., excessive use of force) by state and local law enforcement. Among other requirements, it does the following:

- lowers the criminal intent standard from willful to knowing or reckless, to convict a law enforcement officer for misconduct in a federal prosecution,
- limits qualified immunity as a defense to liability in a private civil action against a law enforcement officer or state correctional officer, and
- authorizes the Department of Justice to issue subpoenas in investigations of police departments for a pattern or practice of discrimination.

WHEREAS, the bill also creates a national registry—the National Police Misconduct Registry—to compile data on complaints and records of police misconduct; and

WHEREAS, the bill establishes a framework to prohibit racial profiling at the federal, state, and local levels; and

WHEREAS, the bill establishes new requirements for law enforcement officers and agencies, including to report data on use-of-force incidents, to obtain training on implicit bias and racial profiling, and to wear body cameras; and

WHEREAS, Blacks In Government has been out front on parts of this legislation over previous years by adopting BIG National Resolutions calling for and supporting Congressional members seeking an end to Racial Profiling, instituting a National data base for tracking police abuse on black and brown citizens, and whistleblowing protections for good officers.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED;

In furtherance of its advocacy mission, BIG endorses passage of H.R.7120, the George Floyd Justice In Policing Act of 2020 in the 116th U.S Congress (https://rb.gy/h96y5b - Bill Summary) and request that:

- (1) The National President of Blacks In Government will write a letter to House of Representatives, the Honorable Nancy Pelosi, House Speaker thanking her for supporting passage of this legislation.
- (2) The National President of Blacks In Government will write the Chairman for the U.S. Senate, the Honorable Mitch McConnell asking him to support the provisions as stated in H.R. 7120, and
- (3) The National President of Blacks In Government will write the President of the United States asking him to sign the legislation, should both the Senate and House agree on a bipartisan version of this legislation.

Submitted by:

Dr. Matthew F. Foss

Dr. Matthew F. Fogg
Former BIG National 2nd Vice President
BIG Region XI - Heritage Chapter President
Chief Deputy United States Marshal, RET.
June 24, 2020

^{*} Much of the language in this Resolution is verbatim from the Congress.Gov Website Summary page.*