June 2nd, 2020

Mr. / Ms. [ Representative’s First and Last Name]

Subject: Law Enforcement Reform

Dear Mr. / Ms. [ Representative’s Last Name]

I am a resident of [City, State]. I am writing to you as a concerned citizen to request your immediate attention to the need for law enforcement policy and procedure reform in [your state], and to advocate for Federal mandates to improve the law enforcement policy and procedures nationwide.

The recent uprisings we’ve seen across the nation indicates that the majority of Americans strongly dissent from the institutionalized mistreatment of people of color, particularly by law enforcement personnel, including the use of excessive and deadly force in non-violent crimes.

One only need to look at the recent deaths of Mr. George Floyd, Ms. Breonna Taylor, Mr. Ahmaud Arbery, and countless others to acknowledge there are fundamental flaws in both our justice system and in our local police forces that need legislative change.

I am asking you to support and propose the following:

1. A Zero Tolerance approach in penalizing and / or prosecuting police officers who kill unarmed/non violent and non-resisting individuals during an arrest;
2. A ban on the use of knee holds and choke holds as an acceptable practice for police officers;
3. The “Use of Force continuum” for any police department in the country must ensure that there are at least six levels of steps with clear rules on escalation;
4. Each state’s “Open Record Act” must ensure officer misconduct information and disciplinary histories are not shielded from the public. Recertification credentials may be denied for police officers if determined that their use of deadly force was unwarranted by federal guidelines; and
5. Implementation of Citizen’s Review Boards in municipalities to hold police departments accountable and build public confidence.

I trust that you too are outraged by the repeated use of excessive and deadly force against fellow American citizens. I also trust that you will use your elected power as a representative of your state to act with the best interest of human decency and will propose amendments to existing laws to ensure no citizen, of any color or ethnicity, is mistreated by those who have sworn to protect and serve our communities.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

[your name]

[address]

[phone]

* I have been using this template and updating it to email my state governor, house representatives, senator, and city major.