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START THE WAVE

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US Senate Sample
Position Paper

United States Senate

Police Reform

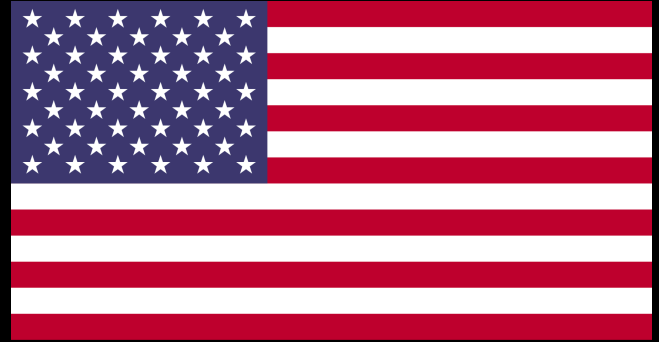
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Due to its discriminatory practices and biases towards white citizens, the American police force has recently been under constant scrutiny. A large percentage of American citizens believe that the pre-existing police system has to change. This sentiment has grown exponentially in recent years due to certain situations, such as the brutal assassination of George Floyd, a father and grandfather; Breonna Taylor, a hard working mother that was murdered in her own home, Andre Hills, a man who was shot outside of his home. These crimes and many thousands like them are perpetrated by the police in our country against people of color, and have sparked mass outrage and the reinvigoration of the BLM movement. According to a study done by the Washington Post this year, police shot and killed at least 1,055 people nationwide; black people, who make approximately 13% of all U.S citizens, accounted for more than 27% of these killings, translating to a rough estimate of around 285 people.

As a member of the Democratic party, I concur with the sentiment that the police system as we know it, needs to change. No American citizen should feel unsafe around the people we hire to protect us. It is sad for me to think that the black community has to wake up

every day in our great nation in fear of being detained, hurt or even killed by police officers just for being born in a minority group. I am proud to be from America, a country that is known for a lot of great things; unfortunately, it is also known for some awful things and this is one of them. According to an article published by the Lancet last year: in the last 40 years, the US has had more than 30,000 murders perpetrated by police officers, no other democratic country in the world has a number this high. Multiple reforms have been implemented over the last years to fight this transgression, and even though this has reduced the amount of crimes committed by the police, there are still hundreds of cases in which police officers illegally detain and kill people of color in an unjust manner with little to no repercussions. We must implement reforms which change the way Police Departments and police officers operate. We need to be competent enough to hold the perpetrators of these crimes accountable, as well as their accompanying departments that have been allowing these crimes to go unpunished. I've introduced The Enhancing Oversight to End Discrimination in Policing Act that seeks to protect minorities in our country. There is no easy fix to the systematic racism that plagues our policing system, however, one way to start is with real accountability.

Militarized law enforcement increases the prevalence of police violence without making our communities safer. I urge for the demilitarization of law enforcement by limiting the transfer or purchase of certain military grade equipment for federal, state, tribal, territorial and local law enforcement agencies. No police officer should be carrying military grade equipment whilst being untrained in de-escalation techniques. It is needed that all current and upcoming police officers need to be provided with the proper training to create safer communities. Police officers have long been privileged by the eyes of the law, it is time for them to be held accountable for their inability to properly serve this country. People of color

have long suffered the consequences of the US having an inefficient Police department,
future generations need to be protected no matter their race. Change starts today.



Citations:

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