



WASHINGTON BUREAU · NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE
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ACTION ALERT

DATE: December 12, 2011
TO: Concerned Parties
FROM: Hilary O. Shelton, Director, Washington Bureau

NAACP Strongly Supported *End Racial Profiling Act* Introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives

LEGISLATION JOINS SENATE COMPANION BILL IN CREATING A NATIONAL PROHIBITION AGAINST RACIAL PROFILING BY LAW ENFORCEMENT; IS INTRODUCED AFTER A REVEALING HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE HEARING

THE ISSUE:

On Thursday December 8, 2011, Congressman John Conyers (MI) introduced H.R. 3618 the NAACP strongly supported "*End Racial Profiling Act of 2011*". H.R. 3618 is the companion bill to S. 1670, which was introduced by Senator Ben Cardin (MD) in October 2011. The *End Racial Profiling Act* comprehensively addresses the insidious practice of racial profiling by law enforcement on five levels: first, it clearly defines the racially discriminatory practice of racial profiling by law enforcement at all levels; second, it creates a federal prohibition against racial profiling; thirdly, it mandates data collection so we can fully assess the true extent of the problem; fourth, it provides funding for the retraining of law enforcement officials on how to discontinue and prevent the use of racial profiling; and fifth, it holds law enforcement agencies that continue to use racial profiling accountable. The House version was introduced by Representative John Conyers and 37 other Members of the House of Representatives on December 8, 2011. We need to urge Members of both the House and Senate to co-sponsor and help move the bill through to passage as soon as possible.

Numerous studies over the past few years have provided us with evidence to support what we have known for decades: law enforcement agents at all levels have consistently used race, ethnicity and national origin when choosing which individuals should be stopped and searched. At the most basic level, it is difficult for our faith in the American judicial system not to be challenged when we cannot even drive down an interstate without being stopped merely because of the color of our skin. Furthermore, evidence clearly demonstrates that racial profiling is not an effective means of law enforcement and in many cases only adds to the distrust of local police.

We need H.R. 3618 / S.1670, the *End Racial Profiling Act* to stop this insidious practice and to help begin to restore the confidence of communities of color throughout the United States in federal, state and local law enforcement and thus restore the necessary trust and integrity necessary to be effective. It is supported by numerous civil rights and civil liberties organizations, as well religious associations and most police unions of color.

In light of the overwhelming evidence that racial profiling continues to be employed today, the NAACP is strongly urging Congress to pass this legislation, the *End Racial Profiling Act*, as soon as possible.

More...

THE ACTION WE NEED YOU TO TAKE:

Contact your U.S. Senators and Member of the House of Representatives and ask them to co-sponsor S. 1670 / H.R. 3618 **THE “END RACIAL PROFILING ACT”**. To contact your Senators and Representative you should:

✓ **Make a Phone Call:**

Call your Senators and your Representative in Washington by dialing the Capitol Switchboard and asking to be transferred to your Senators’/Congressman’s offices. The switchboard phone number is **(202) 224-3121** (see message section, below).

✓ **Write a Letter**

If you choose to write letters to your Senators, send them to:

The Honorable (name of Senator)
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

If you choose to write a letter to your Representative, send it to:

The Honorable (name of Representative)
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

**A SAMPLE
LETTER IS
ATTACHED**

✓ **Send a Fax**

If you would like to send a fax, call your Senators’ or Representative’s office (through the Capitol switchboard) and ask for their fax numbers (you can use either the attached sample letter or the message box, below).

✓ **Send an E-Mail**

To send an e-mail to your Senators, simply go to www.senate.gov, click on Senators, then click on Contacting Senators (by name or by state). This selection will also help you to identify who your two senators are.

To send an e-mail to your Representative, go to www.house.gov, and click on “write your representative.” This will help you identify who your congressman is and how to contact him/her. Unfortunately, not all Members of Congress have e-mail addresses.

PLEASE REMEMBER TO CONTACT BOTH OF YOUR SENATORS!

THE MESSAGE:

- ◆ We need this important legislation which takes concrete steps to put an end to the insidious practice of racial profiling by law enforcement at all levels.
- ◆ Racial profiling is prevalent at all levels of law enforcement today; one study has shown that approximately 72% of all routine traffic stops on an interstate in the Northeast occur with African American drivers despite the fact that African Americans make up only about 17% of the driving population.
- ◆ It is difficult for our faith in the American judicial system not to be challenged when we cannot drive down an interstate, walk down the street, or even enter into our own homes without being stopped merely because of the color of our skin.
- ◆ The “*End Racial Profiling Act*” not only clearly defines this insidious practice, but it also prohibits racial profiling and collects data to fully assess the extent of the problem. It also provides training and other incentives for states and local governments to actively pursue policies to eliminate it and the legislation punishes those in law enforcement who continue to use it.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION TO THIS IMPORTANT MATTER!!!

If you have any questions, call Hilary Shelton at the Washington Bureau at (202) 463-2940.

MEMBERSHIP IS POWER! JOIN THE NAACP TODAY.

(date)

The Honorable _____
United State Senate / House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20510 / 20515

Sample Letter

RE: SUPPORT FOR THE “END RACIAL PROFILING ACT”

Dear Senator / Representative _____;

As your constituent, I am writing to urge you to support and be a co-sponsor of H.R. 3618 / S.1670, the “*End Racial Profiling Act*” introduced by Congressman John Conyers (MI) and Senator Ben Cardin (MD). This important legislation takes concrete steps to put an end to the insidious practice of racial profiling at the federal, state and local levels.

As numerous studies have demonstrated over the past few years, racial profiling is prevalent throughout law enforcement today. One study has shown that approximately 72% of all routine traffic stops on an interstate in the Northeast occur with African American drivers despite the fact that African Americans make up only about 17% of the driving population. Other studies have shown similar disparities in stops and searches by federal, state and local law enforcement agents.

It is difficult for our faith in the American judicial system not to be challenged when we cannot drive down an interstate, walk down the street or even enter into our own homes without being stopped merely because of the color of our skin. We need to do all we can to see that this problem is addressed sooner rather than later, so that we can begin to rebuild the trust for law enforcement and law enforcement agents within communities of color. Furthermore, numerous studies have shown that racial profiling is ***not*** an effective tool in law enforcement.

The *End Racial Profiling Act* is important in that it not only specifically defines and bans the insidious practice of racial profiling, but it also mandates data collection to try to assess the true extent of the problem, withholds federal funds from state and local governments who persist in this odious practice, provides training and other assistance to state and local jurisdictions to help them address the problem and allows victims to seek injunctive relief.

As I said earlier, I hope that you will be a co-sponsor of and support this legislation and that you will help address the very serious problem of racial profiling. Please let me know what you intend to do, and what I can do to help you in this fight. Thank you in advance for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

(sign and print your name and
remember to include your address)

**Remember to contact
your Representative as
well as BOTH of your
Senators**