

CONGRESSMAN

# Jimmy Panetta

PROUDLY REPRESENTING THE 20TH DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

Dear Community Member,

I join countless others across the Central Coast, California, and our country to denounce the horrific killing of George Floyd and [address](#) the disparities in our system of law enforcement that stem from the greater racial inequities in our society. This nation-wide reckoning comes at the same time that we mourn the loss of Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Office Sergeant Damon Gutzwiller, who was killed in the line of duty while responding to a call about an armed and dangerous person. We can recognize the dangers faced by police officers every day and the need for the police in our communities, while fighting to ensure that every law enforcement officer consistently and responsibly protects and serves everybody. I greatly appreciate that this moment propels people to peacefully march in the streets against recent and generational injustices. It also, however, is time for our nation to take steps in the right direction to officially acknowledge the past wrongs, account for the present issues, and act on real reform in Congress for the future of our system of law enforcement.

As your federal representative, I am proud to take such steps forward as an original cosponsor of the [Justice in Policing Act of 2020](#). It is a monumental and comprehensive bill that improves training and practices to emphasize de-escalation over force, revamps legal standards to better hold accountable police misconduct, and creates a national data base for problematic officers.

The Justice in Policing Act of 2020 also:

- Prohibits federal, state, and local law enforcement from racial, religious and discriminatory profiling, and mandates training on racial, religious, and discriminatory profiling for all law enforcement.
- Bans chokeholds, carotid holds, and no-knock warrants at the federal level and limits the transfer of military-grade equipment to state and local law enforcement.
- Mandates the use of dashboard cameras and body cameras for federal offices and requires state and local law enforcement to use existing federal funds to ensure the use of police body cameras.
- Establishes a National Police Misconduct Registry to prevent problematic officers who are fired or leave on agency from moving to another jurisdiction without any accountability.
- Amends federal criminal statute from “willfulness” to a “recklessness” standard to successfully identify and prosecute police misconduct.

- Reforms qualified immunity so that individuals are not barred from recovering damages when police violate their constitutional rights.
- Establishes public safety innovation grants for community-based organizations to create local commissions and task forces to help communities to re-imagine and develop concrete, just and equitable public safety approaches.
- Creates law enforcement development and training programs to develop best practices and requires the creation of law enforcement accreditation standard recommendations based on President Obama's Taskforce on 21st Century policing.
- Requires state and local law enforcement agencies to report use of force data, disaggregated by race, sex, disability, religion, age.
- Improves the use of pattern and practice investigations at the federal level by granting the Department of Justice Civil Rights Division subpoena power and creates a grant program for state attorneys general to develop authority to conduct independent investigations into problematic police departments.
- Establishes a Department of Justice task force to coordinate the investigation, prosecution and enforcement efforts of federal, state, and local governments in cases related to law enforcement misconduct.

Read more about Justice in Policing Act of 2020 [here](#).

Led by the Congressional Black Caucus, this bill is expected to soon be considered for a markup by the House Judiciary Committee. Soon after that hearing, the legislation will then go to the full House of Representatives for a vote on passage. Although no single bill will fully repair the systemic inequities or our legal system, the Justice in Policing Act of 2020 provides for reform so that law enforcement can properly police and protect all communities.

Listed below is additional legislation to address law enforcement and systemic inequities that I have cosponsored and am working on in Congress:

- [Police Training and Independent Review Act, H.R. 125](#)
- [Commission on the Social Status of Black Men and Boys Act, H.R. 1636](#)
- [Nonbinding Resolution Condemning Police Brutality, H. Res. 988](#)
- [Efforts for Truth, Racial Healing and Transformation Act](#)
- [Commission to Study Reparations, H.R. 40](#)
- [Preventing Tragedies Between Police and Communities Act, H.R. 2927](#)

I am extremely fortunate and absolutely honored to work on the above legislation with civil rights icon and hero Representative John Lewis (GA-5) in Congress and as members of the House Committee on Ways and Means. Recently, John was interviewed by the Washington Post as he stood in the Black Lives Matter Plaza about the current challenges that we face as a nation. At the end of the interview, John said, "we must use our time and our space on this little planet that we call Earth to make a lasting contribution, to leave it a little better than we found it, and now that need is greater than ever before." As people continue to peacefully march and speak out and as Congress continues to listen

and act through bold legislation, together, we the people are striving to make better this place we call home.

If you have any immediate questions or concerns that my staff or I can help you with, please call my Congressional offices in Salinas at 831-424-2229, Santa Cruz at 831-429-1976, or Washington, D.C. at 202-225-2861 or contact me through my [website](#). For frequent updates on my work on these issues, please follow me on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#). Please do not hesitate to reach out and let me know how I can continue to best serve you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jimmy Panetta', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Jimmy Panetta  
United States Representative  
20th Congressional District, California