

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

INTRODUCTION OF POLICE CAMERA ACT 1/3/19

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 3, 2019

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the Police Creating Accountability by Making Effective Recording Act, also known as the Police CAMERA Act, a bill I introduced today with several of my colleagues. If enacted, this bill would establish a grant program to assist state and local law enforcement with the deployment of body-worn camera programs.

Safe communities require good police.

Good policing requires public trust.

Unfortunately, in far too many communities, that trust has become strained.

In the wake of recent police shootings, our nation is facing sobering questions about the basic fairness of our criminal justice system. We face sobering questions about race.

Over the past several years, the wider availability of video has shined a much-needed light on police use of deadly force. Without video of places like North Charleston, Staten Island, Chicago, Cleveland, Baton Rouge, Tulsa and Falcon Heights, Minnesota the world might never know what occurred.

The more we see of these types of videos, the more we are left to wonder about all the incidents that were not recorded.

Had there been better video of the shooting of Darius Stewart in my home town of Memphis, it might have helped to better inform the grand jury that, sadly, refused to indict the police officer who was responsible.

Justice is supposed to be blind, but it is not supposed to be blind to the facts.

Police body cameras can help provide evidence and restore some much-needed trust.

They can protect both police and citizens alike.

The vast majority of police are well meaning, dedicated public servants, and we depend upon them to keep us safe from criminals. They have dangerous jobs, as we have seen all too frequently.

But the fact remains some officers go beyond the law in a callous disregard for due process. Their actions damage the public trust that is essential for good police to be able to serve and protect our communities.

Police body cameras, alone, won't solve this problem. But they are an important step in the right direction.

I urge all members to help pass the Police CAMERA Act quickly.

IN MEMORY OF MR. RALPH
WILLIAM HALL

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 3, 2019

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a great soldier, dedicated

husband, loving father, and loyal friend to many, Mr. Ralph William Hall. Sadly, Mr. Hall passed away on December 18, 2018. His funeral service will be held on January 5, 2019 at 11 am at St. Timothy Episcopal Church located at 3601 Alabama Avenue SE, Washington, D.C. 20020.

Mr. Ralph William Hall was born on January 25, 1919, in Metcalf, Georgia to the union of Adam and Maggie Franklin Hall. He was the oldest of five children. At an early age, he moved to Thomasville, Georgia where he lived with his parents and maternal grandmother. During this time, he learned to fish, hunt, and perform farm chores. But, it was also during this time that his unbreakable bond with God was cemented. He joined St. Mark AME Church and attended every Sunday. He also attended Allen Normal School, a private Congregational school where he learned self-discipline and bible study.

A diligent student, Ralph graduated from Douglas High School, where he served as Senior Class President. He went on to continue his education at Johnson C. Smith University in Charlotte, North Carolina, where he earned a degree in Mathematics in 1941. Ralph was drafted into the United States Army while in college, but was allowed to complete his degree requirements, then served faithfully for five years. He was discharged in 1946. He was initiated into the brotherhood of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. and was a life member for 80 years until his passing.

Following his discharge from the Army, his life would change forever as he was joined in holy matrimony with his college sweetheart, Virginia (Ginny) Holder.

He moved his new family to Washington, D.C. and embarked on a career with the Federal Government that lasted for 35 years. During this time, two children were born to this union, Douglas and Angela.

Sadly, Ginny became ill and passed in 1962. Mr. Hall was then left with the awesome task of being a single father. However, as with other challenges in his life, he was more than ready to meet this one. His strong and unwavering faith in God led him to become a member of the Jones United Methodist Church, where he proudly served as Chairman of the Trustee Board, where he led the completion of the Education Building along with serving as the Church School Superintendent.

Another major life changing event for him occurred when he was introduced to Thelma Johnson by a dear Army Buddy and his wife, Milton and Evelyn Serallee. This led to their marriage in 1965 and the new family moved to Hillcrest area in Southeast Washington, D.C.

Ralph Hall continued his love for service to humankind as a member of the Hillcrest Civic Association and as PTA President at Anne Beers Elementary School. In 1966, he and Thelma joined St. Timothy's Episcopal Church where he served many roles to include: Lay Reader, Diocesan Delegate, Member of the Men of St. Timothy's (Most), and the Brotherhood of St. Andrews. He truly dedicated his life to the service of others. And was a con-

stant example of sincerity, loyalty, and devotion to family.

Madam Speaker, my wife Vivian and I, along with the 730,000 constituents of the Second Congressional District of Georgia, salute and honor the life of Mr. Ralph William Hall. I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join us in extending our deepest condolences to the Hall family during this difficult time of bereavement. We pray that that they will be consoled and comforted by an abiding faith and the Holy Spirit in the days, weeks and months ahead.

INTRODUCTION OF THE COMMISSION TO STUDY REPARATION PROPOSALS FOR AFRICAN-AMERICAN ACT

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 3, 2019

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to re-introduce H.R. 40, the Commission to Study and Develop Reparation proposals for African-Americans Act. This legislation was first introduced by retired Member of Congress John Conyers of Michigan in 1989, and was intended to examine the institution of slavery in the colonies and the United States from 1619 to the present, and further recommend appropriate remedies.

Since the initial introduction of this legislation, its proponents have made substantial progress in elevating the discussion of reparations and reparatory justice at the national level and joining the mainstream international debate on the issues. Though some have tried to deflect the importance of these conversations by focusing on individual monetary compensation, the real issue is whether and how this nation can come to grips with the legacy of slavery that still infects current society. Through legislation, resolutions, news, and litigation, we are moving closer to making more strides in the movement toward reparations.

Today there are more people at the table—more activists, more scholars, more CEO's, more state and local officials, and more Members of Congress. However, despite this progress and the election of the first American President of African descent, the legacy of slavery lingers heavily in this nation. While we have focused on the social effects of slavery and segregation, its continuing economic implications remain largely ignored by mainstream analysis. These economic issues are the root cause of many critical issues in the African-American community today, such as education, healthcare and criminal justice policy, including policing practices. The call for reparations represents a commitment to entering a constructive dialogue on the role of slavery and racism in shaping present-day conditions in our community and American society.

Over the last several years, we have had a distinguished academic and activist panel from

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Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

the National African American Reparations Commission dive into some of the most salient points in the reparations discussion. I am supporting this effort by continuing to hold the annual reparations retrospective at the Annual Legislative Conference of the Congressional Black Caucus.

I believe that H.R. 40 is a crucial piece of legislation because it goes beyond exploring the economic implications of slavery and segregation. It is a holistic bill in the sense that it seeks to establish a commission to also examine the moral and social implications of slavery. In short, the Commission aims to study the impact of slavery and continuing discrimination against African-Americans, resulting directly and indirectly from slavery to segregation to the desegregation process and the present day. The commission would also make recommendations concerning any form of apology and compensation to begin the long delayed process of atonement for slavery.

With the over criminalization and policing of black bodies, a reoccurring issue in African-American communities, I believe this conversation is both relevant and crucial to restoring trust in governmental institutions in many communities. As in years past, I welcome open and constructive discourse on H.R. 40 and the creation of this commission in the 116th Congress. Though the times and circumstance may change, the principle problem of slavery continues to weigh heavily on this country. A federal commission can help us reach into this dark past and bring us into a brighter future.

INTRODUCTION OF THE POLICE TRAINING AND INDEPENDENT REVIEW ACT

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 3, 2019

Mr. COHEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the Police Training and Independent Review Act, a bill I introduced today with colleague LACY CLAY of Missouri.

If enacted, the Police Training and Independent Review Act would help ensure the independent investigation and prosecution of law enforcement officers in cases involving their use of deadly force. It would also help ensure that law enforcement officers receive appropriate training.

America received a wakeup call in Ferguson, Missouri. We received another in Staten Island, New York.

We received yet another in Ohio, South Carolina, Illinois, Minnesota, Louisiana and Oklahoma.

Our nation faces sobering questions about the basic fairness of our criminal justice system. And we face sobering questions about race. These questions simply cannot be ignored.

For too many, for too long, justice has seemed too lacking.

President Obama's Commission on 21st Century Policing suggested several common sense reforms, including the use of independent prosecutors for police-involved civilian deaths, as well as additional training for law enforcement officers.

Unfortunately, Congress has yet to act on these recommendations.

We need to stop asking local prosecutors to investigate the same law enforcement officers with whom they work so closely, and whose relationships they rely upon to perform their daily responsibilities. Prosecutors also often seek the support of their local police when they run for reelection.

This is an inherent conflict of interest, and if we are serious about restoring a sense of fairness and justice, we must remove this conflict immediately.

To be sure, the vast majority of prosecutors and law enforcement officers are well meaning, dedicated public servants, and we depend upon them to keep us safe from criminals. And they have dangerous jobs, as we have seen all too frequently.

But the fact remains that some officers go beyond the law in a callous disregard for due process. When it comes to investigating, and potentially prosecuting, these actions, there is often a perception of unfairness, and that perception poisons the public trust.

That is bad for law enforcement as well as citizens, making their work more dangerous.

The Police Training and Independent Review Act would give states an incentive to use independent prosecutors when police use of deadly force results in a civilian death. It would also give states and incentive to provide training to police to help them better understand the racial and ethnic diversity of the communities they serve, as well as how best to work with individuals who are disabled or mentally ill.

If states use independent prosecutors and provide appropriate training, they would become eligible for additional federal funding.

I urge my colleagues to help pass this legislation quickly, and help restore some much needed faith in our criminal justice system.

I want to thank my colleague, LACY CLAY for his partnership on this bill. He is a tireless advocate on these issues, and I am honored to work with him. I also want to thank Senator TAMMY DUCKWORTH for her leadership on this legislation, and look forward to her introducing a Senate companion soon.

COMBATTING SEXUAL HARASSMENT IN SCIENCE ACT OF 2019

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 3, 2019

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, today I am pleased to be joined by my good friend, Ranking Member LUCAS, in introducing the Combatting Sexual Harassment in Science Act of 2019.

Over the last year, the #MeToo movement emboldened countless women, many who had remained silent for years, to share their experiences. Their stories made it clear that the experience of sexual harassment is much too common across all segments of our society. A recent report by the National Academies of Sciences revealed that sexual harassment is pervasive in the scientific workplace—in lecture halls, laboratories, observatories, and remote field sites. The report also found that sexual harassment stifles the advancement of female scientists.

This bill establishes a research program at the National Science Foundation to examine the prevalence of and factors contributing to sexual harassment in the scientific workforce. Furthermore, this bill directs the Office of Science and Technology Policy to issue uniform policy guidance to Federal science agencies to ensure every agency has clear policies and dedicated resources to prevent and respond to incidents of sexual harassment at academic institutions receiving federal research funding. This legislation also creates an interagency working group to improve coordination and communication among agencies in addressing sexual harassment by federally funded scientists.

Sexual harassment is driving some of our brightest minds away from careers in research at a time when we need them most. If we are to tackle the scientific and technological challenges ahead of us, we must do more to ensure women are free to conduct their research without being degraded, harassed, or abused because of their gender. The Combatting Sexual Harassment in Science Act of 2019 is an important first step in that direction, and I hope Members on both sides of the aisle will support this legislation.

REINTRODUCTION OF THE BUILD AMERICA ACT

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 3, 2019

Mr. HASTINGS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Build America Act, legislation that will provide \$10 billion annually for merit-based infrastructure grants across the country. For years, House Democrats have called for a dramatic investment in infrastructure, and for years, these call calls have gone unanswered. I am hopeful that this will be the year that we finally make the investments we need. I am proud to offer my own legislation today—not for a massive, all-encompassing infrastructure package—but rather, for a common sense expansion of successful programs based on need and merit that will ensure we put money towards the greatest infrastructure needs regardless of any additional package passed in the House.

My legislation will significantly increase the size and scope of two existing infrastructure grant programs, the Capital Investment Grant Program (CIG), also known as New Starts/Small Starts, and the BUILD Grant Program, formerly known as the Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery Grant Program, or TIGER Grants. These programs have been immensely successful in the past, assisting rural and urban communities prioritize their own needs. Each program requires matching funds from those seeking assistance, making them smart and effective avenues for leveraging federal funding to make a real impact across the country.

My bill takes these programs out of the annual appropriations process. Instead, it establishes them as mandatory programs with permanent and expanded funding streams totaling more than \$10 billion annually.

This expansion will be welcome news to the thousands of communities like those I represent. Consider this, Madam Speaker: since