

who focus on safety rather than money make decisions that better protect both individuals and their communities.

The results speak for themselves. After Illinois eliminated cash bail, violent crime dropped by 7 percent and property crime by 14 percent. New Jersey's reforms led to a 20 percent reduction in violent crime while maintaining high court appearance rates. In Harris County, Texas, ending cash bail for most misdemeanors did not increase crime. A nationwide study by the Brennan Center for Justice found the same pattern across nearly two dozen jurisdictions: bail reform does not lead to higher crime. The data is consistent and compelling—bail reform enhances justice and preserves safety, despite fearmongering from its opponents.

D.C.'s risk-based bail system has served as a national model since 1992

For more than three decades, Washington, D.C. has shown that a justice system without cash bail can work, and work well. Since 1992, judges in D.C. have made pretrial decisions based on a person's risk to public safety rather than their ability to pay. The outcomes are impressive: in the last four years, 88 percent of people released pretrial in D.C. remained completely arrest-free, and 98 percent remained free from arrest for violent offenses. These numbers demonstrate that when freedom is tied to fairness, not finances, communities are safer and more stable.

Under D.C.'s system, judges assess risk through evidence-based hearings. Detention is used only when no safe alternative exists, ensuring that pretrial incarceration is a rare and deliberate outcome—not the default. D.C. also invests in supportive pretrial services such as court date reminders, transportation assistance, and access to mental health care. These measures help people appear in court and stay on track, strengthening both accountability and public safety. Transparent hearings and timely decisions make the process fair, fast, and equitable—showing that justice does not have to come at the expense of compassion.

Mandatory cash bail only benefits the multibillion-dollar for-profit bail industry

Mandatory cash bail doesn't protect communities—it protects profits. The effort to roll back bail reform is a handout to the for-profit bail industry, which thrives on the desperation of working families. Bail bonds function like predatory payday loans: families must pay a nonrefundable fee to a bail bondsman, money they never get back—even if charges are dropped. This \$2 billion-a-year industry depends entirely on maintaining cash bail, because without it, its exploitative business model collapses.

The bail industry has built a powerful political machine to protect its profits. The American Bail Coalition, its chief lobbying group, spends millions to oppose reform efforts across the country. It has partnered with well-funded conservative organizations to push legislation that criminalizes charitable bail funds—programs that help families avoid these predatory practices. In short, mandatory cash bail enriches a few at the expense of justice, safety, and the public good. Congress should not allow corporate greed to dictate who sits in jail and who walks free.

Mandatory pretrial detention based on charge alone violates the Constitution

The proposed bill's provision requiring automatic pretrial detention based solely on the charge is not only unjust—it is almost certainly unconstitutional. The U.S. Supreme Court made this clear in *United States v. Salerno*, holding that pretrial detention must be a "carefully limited excep-

tion," not the rule. Detaining someone without an individualized hearing strips them of due process and violates one of our most fundamental constitutional rights: the presumption of innocence. Liberty cannot be taken away solely based on accusation, without more.

We are not aware of a single jurisdiction in the country that allows detention based solely on the nature of the charge, and for good reason—it would not withstand constitutional scrutiny. This bill would set a dangerous precedent, eroding basic civil liberties and undermining decades of legal precedent that protect fairness in our criminal justice system.

VOTE NO ON H.R. 5107—"THE COMMON SENSE LAW ENFORCEMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY IN D.C. NOW ACT"

Congress should reject H.R. 5107 because it would override critical public-safety reforms adopted unanimously by the District of Columbia Council in the Comprehensive Policing and Justice Reform Amendment Act of 2022—reforms designed to hold officers accountable, improve transparency, and strengthen community trust. These are not abstract ideals; they were enacted in response to concrete, well-documented failures within the Metropolitan Police Department.

The D.C. reforms were necessary to hold officers accountable for serious misconduct

Before the Act, D.C. had no effective mechanism to remove officers who engaged in egregious criminal behavior. A 2021 audit revealed that at least 64 officers were found by internal investigators to have committed criminal misconduct. The department attempted to fire 24 of those officers—but 21 were shielded by procedural barriers, often driven by union intervention. Even more troubling, the department made no attempt to fire more than 40 officers involved in criminal conduct such as drunk driving, harassment, property damage, theft, and stalking. Every officer credibly accused of domestic violence remained on the force, including one officer who admitted to punching his wife so hard in the face that he fractured her eye socket, and another officer who used a car to run over the mother of his child. Some officers remain on the force due to the powerful police union's refusal to allow officers to be held accountable. This was true for a D.C. officer who, ultimately, remained on the force after having been convicted of sexually assaulting a woman in his patrol car.

The Act responded to these failures by streamlining the process for removing officers who commit serious misconduct and by prohibiting agencies from hiring officers with known records of abuse. It also established a police-misconduct database to prevent the well-documented problem of "wandering officers"—individuals fired or forced out for misconduct who quietly move to new departments. States like Florida and Texas have documented hundreds to thousands of such cases annually. There are almost 1,100 wandering officers in any given year in Florida; in Texas, about a quarter of law enforcement officers fired for misconduct were subsequently hired by another law enforcement agency. Weakening the Act would mean turning a blind eye to the recycling of abusive officers. Databases to keep track of officer misconduct help law enforcement agencies avoid unknowingly hiring an officer with documented behavioral problems.

The Act includes essential safeguards to address excessive use of force

D.C. law enforcement reports roughly 2,300 use-of-force incidents every year—a number that demands oversight, especially since a small group of officers account for a disproportionate share of these incidents.

Eighty-six officers reported five or more uses of force, and 17 reported at least 10. Use of force overwhelmingly targets Black residents, who are the subjects in roughly 94% of documented incidents. Importantly, these numbers reflect only cases officers self-reported, meaning the true numbers are likely far higher.

To confront these issues, the Act created a Use of Force Review Board, required robust de-escalation training, and mandated public release of body-worn camera footage after shootings and other serious events. Jurisdictions that release such footage consistently see improved community trust and enhanced transparency. Body cameras provide an impartial record, encourage better policing practices, and allow communities to participate meaningfully in oversight. These policies do not endanger public safety—they strengthen it.

Transparency and accountability lead to safer communities

Contrary to fear-based narratives, reforms that require accountability do not undermine law enforcement; they help restore public confidence and encourage collaboration between police and the communities they serve. As the District's Attorney General has explained, "the Comprehensive Policing and Justice Reform Amendment Act is designed to improve public safety by strengthening cooperation between officers of the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) and the community they serve. This legislation is essential in ensuring the swift and certain discipline of officers who use excessive force or violate constitutional rights, which will go far to improve trust and mutual respect between police officers and the community."

By overturning D.C.'s locally enacted reforms, H.R. 5107 would reinstate a system where officers who commit serious misconduct remain on the force, where excessive use of force goes unaddressed, and where transparency is weakened. Congress should respect D.C.'s democratic process, support evidence-based public-safety measures, and vote NO on H.R. 5107.

In this pivotal moment, Congress has a choice: to respect the District's democratic will and its proven, evidence-based approach to public safety, or to impose regressive federal mandates that endanger civil rights, destabilize communities, and undermine decades of progress. H.R. 5107 and H.R. 5214 are not solutions—they are setbacks that would weaken accountability, revive discriminatory practices, and replace effective reforms with policies long discredited by research and experience. We urge you to stand with the residents of Washington, D.C., to uphold the principles of local self-governance, and to vote NO on these bills. The nation is watching, and your leadership in defending justice, equity, and democracy is essential. For more information, please contact Aiden Cotter, Senior Policy Counsel for Decarceration and Decriminalization.

Best regards,

LASHAWN WARREN,
Chief Policy Officer.
SAKIRA COOK,
Federal Policy Director.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL A. RULLI

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2025

Mr. RULLI. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call

No. 289; YEA on Roll Call No. 290; YEA on Roll Call No. 291; YEA on Roll Call No. 292; NAY on Roll Call No. 293; YEA on Roll Call No. 294; YEA on Roll Call No. 295; YEA on Roll Call No. 296; and YEA on Roll Call No. 297.

HONORING LORNA KIPP HUT WITH
A CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN
COMMENDATION

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2025

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Lieutenant Colonel Lorna Kipphut of Rockwall, Texas, and to honor her with a Congressional Veteran Commendation. Lieutenant Colonel Kipphut honorably served in the United States Air Force from 1978 to 1998, dedicating twenty years to the defense of our Nation with distinction, leadership, and trailblazing service.

Lieutenant Colonel Kipphut began her career as an intelligence officer, serving in pivotal assignments across Korea and Germany during the Cold War. She went on to serve as a desk officer for the National Intelligence Center, providing critical intelligence support during Operations Desert Storm and Desert Shield, and later oversaw intelligence operations for Operation Southern Watch. Throughout her career, she set a standard of excellence, becoming the first woman officer assigned to the USAF Red Flag Combat Readiness Program and the first female combat operations officer assigned to the Air Combat Command Inspector General Program.

For her exemplary service, Lieutenant Colonel Kipphut received numerous awards, including the Defense Meritorious Service Medal with one device, the Meritorious Service Medal with three devices, the Air Force Commendation Medal with one device, the National Defense Service Medal, the Joint Meritorious Unit Award, and the Air Force Organizational Excellence Award with one device, among many others recognizing her exceptional performance and commitment to excellence.

Following her retirement from the Air Force, Lieutenant Colonel Kipphut has continued her legacy of leadership and service in her community. Under her direction, the Terry Fisher Boys & Girls State Program grew by more than 600 percent, now over 25 students participate in this nationally recognized civic leadership program each year. She remains an active member of the Rockwall Terry Fisher American Legion Post No. 117, where she serves as Post Adjutant, and is also an engaged member of the Rockwall Republican Women's Club.

I am deeply honored to recognize Lieutenant Colonel Lorna Kipphut for her courage, pioneering leadership, and lifelong dedication to serving her country and community. She represents the very best of Texas' 4th Congressional District and of the United States of America.

HONORING NATIONAL RURAL
HEALTH DAY

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2025

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of National Rural Health Day and to bring attention to the crisis gripping rural communities in Mississippi's 2nd Congressional District. My district is majority Black, deeply rural, and medically underserved. Donald Trump and Republicans in Congress continue to push policies that weaken our health care system, close rural hospitals, and leave families with fewer providers, fewer services, and fewer places to turn in an emergency. Their so called "One Big Ugly Bill" drives 338 rural hospitals nationwide closer to shutting down, including eight in Mississippi and four of them are in my district. Five counties I represent have no hospital at all, and some families must travel more than 90 miles just to see a doctor. These failures have devastating consequences. Harmony Ball Stribling of Humphreys County, nine months pregnant, died on the way to the nearest hospital because the one that could have saved her closed years earlier. When a mass shooting devastated a rural Mississippi Delta town during the 2025 homecoming season, victims were rushed to a hospital that often operates with limited staff and what it needed. Rural America is being left behind. Access is shrinking, costs are rising, and entire counties are without essential care. My constituents are scared, frustrated, and tired of being treated like their lives do not matter. We must act now to protect the health, safety, and dignity of every rural family.

LETTER LED BY THE LEADERSHIP
CONFERENCE ON CIVIL AND
HUMAN RIGHTS ON THE COM-
MON-SENSE LAW ENFORCEMENT
AND ACCOUNTABILITY NOW IN
DC ACT OF 2025 (H.R. 5107) AND
THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
CASH BAIL REFORM ACT OF 2025
(H.R. 5214)

HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 19, 2025

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, today the House of Representatives debated the Common-Sense Law Enforcement and Accountability Now in DC Act of 2025 (H.R. 5107) and the District of Columbia Cash Bail Reform Act of 2025 (H.R. 5214). I include in the RECORD a letter opposing these bills led by The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights.

THE LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE ON
CIVIL AND HUMAN RIGHTS,

Washington, DC, November 19, 2025.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: On behalf of The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights and the undersigned organizations, we write to express our strong opposition to H.R. 5107, the "Common-Sense Law Enforcement and Accountability Now in D.C. (CLEAN DC) Act of 2025, and to H.R. 5214 the D.C. Cash Bail Reform Act.

H.R. 5107 would largely overturn the District of Columbia's Comprehensive Policing

and Justice Reform Amendment Act (CPJRAA) of 2022, while H.R. 5214 would require mandatory pretrial detention and cash bail for an arbitrary overly broad list of offenses.

These bills are part of a long line of attacks on democracy in the District of Columbia. D.C. citizens pay federal taxes and comply with all the other duties of residence, yet they are deprived of not only any voting representation in Congress, but also of control over their own local governance. With these votes, Congress would yet again micromanage the affairs of the District and relegate the more than 700,000 residents of D.C. to second-class citizenship—and without a single vote representing D.C.

D.C. autonomy and D.C. statehood are civil rights and racial justice issues. D.C. residents deserve the same tight as residents from any U.S. state to decide the laws that are best for their communities. It remains painfully clear that the right to vote is meaningless if the will of D.C. residents can be overturned by a Congress that gives them no say in the matter. Congress must listen to Mayor Bowser and the D.C. Council and reject this attempt to roll back duly passed D.C. legislation.

Washingtonians are best situated to address police reform policies in their own community and deserve to determine these policies without congressional interference. The CPJRAA includes commonsense reforms to increase police accountability and government transparency, and it directly responds to the calls from District communities for additional law enforcement oversight. Many of the reforms in this bill echo provisions in the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act, as well as President Biden's executive orders on policing—including improving access to body-worn camera recordings, restricting access to military-grade weapons, and creating a public discipline database of information related to sustained allegations of police misconduct. D.C., like many other jurisdictions, initially passed these reforms in response to the murders of George Floyd and Breonna Taylor and the need to enact systemic police reform. In the wake of the deployment of the National Guard and surge of federal law enforcement in D.C., there has been an increase in instances of police brutality and unwarranted searches. Congress must not block D.C. from heeding the calls of its residents by rescinding police oversight law.

Legislation like the CPJRAA is not anti-police, rather it helps restore public confidence in law enforcement both by deterring abuses of power and demonstrating that law enforcement is not above the law. Holding police officers accountable for violating the law does not lead to an increase in crime in fact, D.C. saw a 30-year low in violent crime in 2024, after the CPJRAA was enacted. Between 2010 and 2020, Washington, D.C. paid out more than \$91 million in police misconduct settlements. Yet, according to an audit, between 2015 and 2021, D.C. was forced to rehire 37 Metropolitan Police Department officers who were fired due to sustained misconduct allegations, with the city awarding them more than \$14.3 million in back pay. Police oversight is crucial to preventing and holding officers accountable for misconduct against the very people they have sworn to protect.

H.R. 5214 proposes drastic, harmful changes to D.C.'s pretrial laws, which ensure that pretrial release decisions are based on assessments of true risk, rather than wealth. It would impose mandatory pretrial jailing of people who are simply accused of certain offenses, a change that is flatly unconstitutional. Its requirement of cash bail for other offenses would have a devastating impact on