1629 K Street, NW 10th Floor Washington, DC 20006 202.466.3311 voice 202.466.3435 fax www.civilrights.org



Cosponsor the End Racial Profiling Act

May 17, 2013

Dear Senator:

On behalf of The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, and the 136 undersigned organizations, we urge you to cosponsor the End Racial Profiling Act of 2013 (ERPA). Passage of this bill is needed to put an end to racial profiling by law enforcement officials and to ensure that individuals are not prejudicially stopped, investigated, arrested, or detained based on their race, ethnicity, national origin, or religion. Policies primarily designed to impact certain groups are ineffective and often result in the destruction of civil liberties for everyone.

ERPA would establish a prohibition on racial profiling, enforceable by declaratory or injunctive relief. The legislation would mandate training for federal law enforcement officials on racial profiling issues. As a condition of receiving federal funding, state, local, and Indian tribal law enforcement agencies would be required to collect data on both routine and spontaneous investigatory activities. The Department of Justice would be authorized to provide grants to state and local law enforcement agencies for the development and implementation of best policing practices, such as early warning systems, technology integration, and other management protocols that discourage profiling. Lastly, this important legislation would require the Attorney General to issue periodic reports to Congress assessing the nature of any ongoing racial profiling.

Racial profiling involves the unwarranted screening of certain groups of people, assumed by the police and other law enforcement agents to be predisposed to criminal behavior. Multiple studies have proven that racial profiling results in the misallocation of law enforcement resources and therefore a failure to identify actual crimes that are planned and committed. By relying on stereotypes rather than proven investigative procedures, the lives of innocent people are needlessly harmed by law enforcement agencies and officials.

As is evident by recent events across the nation, racial profiling is a pervasive and harmful practice that negatively impacts both individuals and communities. Current federal law enforcement guidance and state laws provide incomplete solutions to the pervasive nationwide problem of racial profiling. Racial profiling results in a loss of trust and confidence in local, state, and federal law enforcement. Although most individuals are taught from an early age that the role of law enforcement is to fairly defend and guard communities from people who want to cause harm to others, this fundamental message is often contradicted when these same defenders are seen as unnecessarily and unjustifiably harassing innocent citizens. Criminal investigations are flawed and hindered because people and communities impacted by these stereotypes are less likely to cooperate with law enforcement agencies they have grown to mistrust. We can begin to reestablish trust in law enforcement if we act now.



Your support for the End Racial Profiling Act of 2013 is critical to its passage. We urge you to cosponsor this vital legislation, which will ensure that federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies are prohibited from impermissibly considering race, ethnicity, national origin, or religion in carrying out law enforcement activities. To become a cosponsor, please contact Margot Hecht in Senator Cardin's office at margot_hecht@cardin.senate.gov or (202) 224-4524. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Lexer Quamie or Nancy Zirkin at (202) 466-3311. Thank you for your valued consideration of this critical legislation.

Sincerely,

National Organizations

A. Philip Randolph Institute

African American Ministers in Action

American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee

American Civil Liberties Union

American Humanist Association

American Probation and Parole Association

Arab American Family Support Center

Asian American Justice Center, member of Asian American Center for Advancing Justice

Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum

Asian Law Caucus

Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance

Asian Pacific American Legal Center

Bill of Rights Defense Committee

Blacks in Law Enforcement in America

Break the Cycle

Breakthrough

Brennan Center for Justice at New York University School of Law

Campaign for Community Change

Campaign for Youth Justice

Center for National Security Studies

Council on American-Islamic Relations

Council on Illicit Drugs of the National Association for Public Health Policy

Disciples Justice Action Network

Drug Policy Alliance

Equal Justice Society

Fair Immigration Reform Movement

Fellowship of Reconciliation

Human Rights Watch

Institute Justice Team, Sisters of Mercy of the Americas

International Center for Advocates Against Discrimination (ICAAD)

Japanese American Citizens League

Jewish Labor Committee

Jewish Reconstructionist Federation



Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law

The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights

League of United Latin American Citizens

Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service

Muslim Advocates

Muslim Legal Fund of America

Muslim Public Affairs Council

NAACP

NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc.

National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd

National African American Drug Policy Coalition, Inc.

National Alliance for Medication Assisted Recovery

National Alliance of Faith and Justice

National Asian American Pacific Islander Mental Health Association

National Asian Pacific American Bar Association

National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum

National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers

National Association of Social Workers

National Black Justice Coalition

National Black Law Students Association

National Black Police Association

National Congress of American Indians

National Council of La Raza

National Education Association

National Fair Housing Alliance

National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Action Fund

National Korean American Service and Education Consortium

National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health

National Legal Aid and Defender Association

National Network for Arab American Communities (NNAAC)

National Organization of Black Women in Law Enforcement

National Organization of Sisters of Color Ending Sexual Assault

National Urban League Policy Institute

NETWORK, A National Catholic Social Justice Lobby

9to5, National Association of Working Women

North American South Asian Bar Association

Organization of Chinese Americans

Pax Christi USA: National Catholic Peace Movement

Prison Policy Initiative

Rights Working Group

Sikh American Legal Defense and Education Fund

Sikh Coalition

Sojourners

South Asian Americans Leading Together

South Asian Network

South Asian Resource Action Center



StoptheDrugWar.org

The Real Cost of Prisons Project

The Sentencing Project

Treatment Communities of America

Union for Reform Judaism

United Methodist Church, General Board of Church and Society

UNITED SIKHS

U.S. Human Rights Network

Women's Alliance for Theology, Ethics and Ritual

State and Local Organizations

9to5 Atlanta Working Women (Georgia)

9to5 Bay Area (California)

9to5 Colorado (Colorado)

9to5 Los Angeles (California)

9to5 Milwaukee (Wisconsin)

A New PATH (Parents for Addiction Treatment & Healing) (California)

Adhikaar (New York)

Advocare, Inc. (Ohio)

Advocates for Basic Legal Equality (Ohio)

Alianza Mexicana (TX)

Arab American Action Network (Illinois)

Arab American Association of New York (State/local version of NNAAC)

Arab-American Family Support Center (New York)

Asian Law Alliance

Black Alliance for Just Immigration

California Immigrant Policy Center

CASA de Maryland (Maryland)

Casa Esperanza (New Jersey)

CAUSA - Oregon's Immigrant Rights Organization (Oregon)

Center for Constitutional Rights (New York)

Center for NuLeadership on Urban Solutions (New York)

Colorado Progressive Coalition

Counselors Helping (South) Asians/Indians, Inc. (Maryland)

Desis Rising Up and Moving (New York)

Drug Policy Forum of Hawaii (Hawaii)

Drug Policy Forum of Texas (Texas)

Florida Immigrant Coalition (Florida)

Healing Communities Prison Ministry and Reentry Project (Pennsylvania)

Houston United/Unido

Indo-American Center (Illinois)

Korean American Resource and Cultural Center (Illinois)

Korean Resource Center (California)

Legal Services for Prisoners with Children (California)

Legal Voice (Washington)

Lowcountry Immigration Coalition (Hilton Head/Bluffton, SC)



Maryland CURE - Citizens United for the Rehabilitation of Errants (Maryland) National Alliance for Medication Assisted Recovery, Delaware Chapter (Delaware)

North Carolina Immigrant Rights Project

Northwest Treeplanters and Farmworkers United (Oregon)

Perspectives, Inc. (Minnesota)

Providence Youth Student Movement (Rhode Island)

Public Justice Center (Maryland)

Rights for All People (Colorado)

Safe Streets Arts Foundation (Washington, DC)

Sahara of South Florida, Inc. (Florida)

Satrang (California)

Sneha, Inc. (Connecticut)

South Asian Bar Association of Northern California (California)

South Carolina Appleseed Legal Justice Center

St. Leonard's Ministries (Illinois)