

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer  
780 Third Avenue, Suite 2301  
New York, NY 10017

Dear Senator Gillibrand,

My name is Madeline Mcfernan; I am currently obtaining a Master's degree in Social Work. I have experienced firsthand how George Floyd's death devastated the relationship that the public had with officials of law enforcement. This tragedy was able to ignite a racial justice movement and shed light on the inequalities that minorities face when it comes to policing and politics. Watching the final breaths of George Floyd not only triggered the state but the entire United States. The epidemic of police brutality and social injustice has become something of common occurrence, with movements arising against the constant social and political oppression, such as the #BlackLiveMatter movement. This death, shortly following that of Breonna Taylor, has shaken the nation and needs to be addressed as soon as possible. Not only does this affect the families of the victims, but the taxpayers as well.

This unfortunate loss left many individuals and families in a state of confusion and despair; witnessing something so heinous and so freely publicized caused many to rise against systemic and social racism in an uproar. The disruption that the injustice suffered by George Floyd has caught the attention of many, and has unveiled decades of systemic racism rooted in the justice system. With more than half of minority arrests ending in violence and excessive police force, this has become bigger than anyone can handle. Whether it be knowingly or unknowingly, a police officer is more likely to use force because of immunity and the likelihood that they would be convicted because of the history of the victim. Although all officers and law enforcement agencies undergo training and learn how to speak to and handle the public, not all police officers have the same morals and sense of empathy for the people that require help. With this bill, more officers will be held accountable for their actions and prevent future deaths caused by the poor choices of others. Please join Representative Karen Bass in sponsoring this bill.

Sincerely,

Madeline Mcfernan