



May 29, 2015

The Honorable Ben Cardin
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John Conyers, Jr.
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senator Cardin and Representative Conyers:

On behalf of the nearly 122,500 members and affiliates of the American Psychological Association (APA), I am writing in support of S. 1056 and H.R. 1933, the End Racial Profiling Act of 2015. APA is the largest scientific and professional organization representing psychology in the U.S. and is the world's largest association of psychologists. Comprised of researchers, educators, clinicians, consultants, and students, our association works to advance psychology as a science, a profession, and as a means of promoting health, education, and human welfare.

APA advocates for policies ensuring that all Americans are treated fairly under the law and works to address issues of bias based on ethnicity, race, gender and gender identity, age, disability status, and sexual orientation. Our members are among the most respected researchers in the areas of racial profiling, discrimination, and implicit and explicit bias. APA members have worked with state and local police departments throughout the country to identify attitudes that contribute to racial profiling and provide solutions to actively discourage this practice.

APA supports the key provisions of the End Racial Profiling Act. First, this crucial bill sends a clear message that racial profiling by federal law enforcement agencies is prohibited. The legislation then provides tools to evaluate progress in this area by requiring data collection to assess the frequency of racial profiling and creating a process to receive complaints about actions of law enforcement agents. The bill also provides law enforcement with funding to implement the training needed to eliminate racial profiling. And finally, the data collection grants provided through the legislation will facilitate essential research needed to increase equity-based policing and improve community-police relations so that we can avoid injustice and violence.

In closing, I would like to thank you for your leadership on this important issue. APA welcomes the opportunity to meet with you and your staff to discuss how our association can support your efforts. If you have any questions or would like more information, please contact Stefanie Reeves, in our Public Interest Government Relations Office, at (202) 336-6061 or sreeves@apa.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "NBA", followed by a long horizontal flourish.

Norman B. Anderson, PhD
Chief Executive Officer

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