

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515-0909

December 17, 2014

Eric Holder  
Attorney General  
U.S. Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Ave  
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Attorney General Holder:

We share your strong commitment to building a fairer, more equitable criminal justice system and write today to request the Department of Justice (DOJ) collect data about the use of excessive force by law enforcement officers in the United States and produce a publicly available annual summary of the data.<sup>[1]</sup> This reporting is currently required under Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994, however according to media reports the most recent report was issued in 2001.<sup>[2]</sup>

Recent events in Sanford, Ferguson, Staten Island, and Cleveland illustrate a significant need for criminal justice reform. Reliable information is necessary in order to implement meaningful change. Experience in our communities indicates that the use of excessive force disproportionately affects communities of color, but we lack empirical data from the Department of Justice.

In order to ensure that criminal justice system provides equal justice for all, the DOJ should to establish a standardized procedure by which local law enforcement agencies collect and report relevant data. This procedure should not leave it to local authorities to judge what is

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<sup>[1]</sup> Section 210402(a) of the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 (42 U.S.C. 14142) requires the Attorney General to compile data on the use of excessive force by law enforcement officers. Subsection (c) requires the production of an annual summary of the data that is compiled.

<sup>[2]</sup> Ross Keith, "How Many Police Shootings Have There Been? In The Aftermath of Michael Brown's Death, The Absence of Police Shooting Statistics Leaves The Question Unanswered," The International Business Times (Aug. 15, 2014).

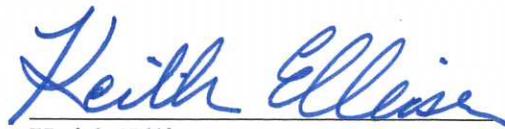
“excessive”, but rather should provide DOJ with specific information sufficient to allow DOJ to make that judgment.

We request that you respond to our request and report on the steps that the DOJ will take to ensure that instances of excessive force are tracked and reported. Recent events make it clear that this is an urgent matter.

Sincerely,



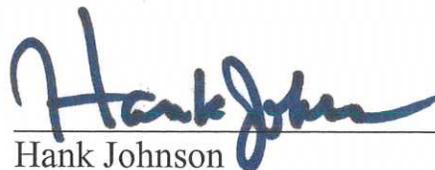
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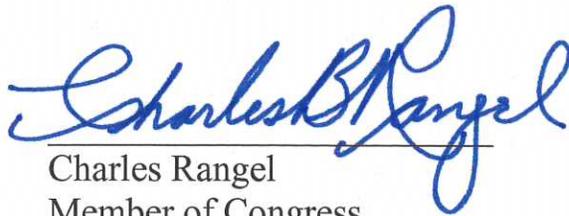


André D. Carson  
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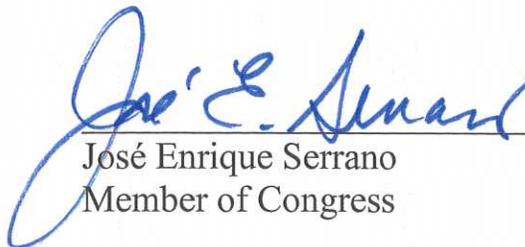
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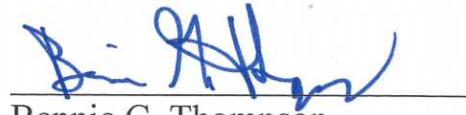
  
Frank Pallone  
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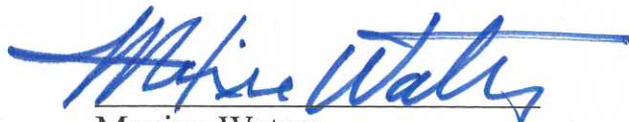
  
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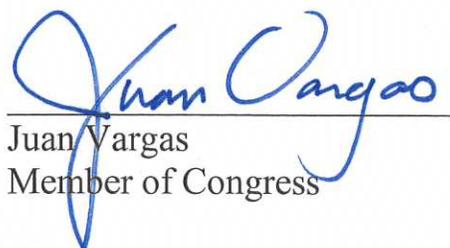
  
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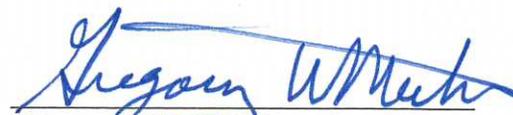
  
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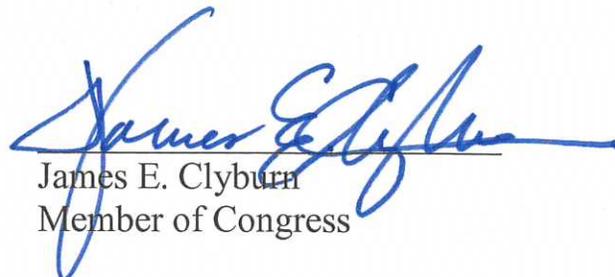
  
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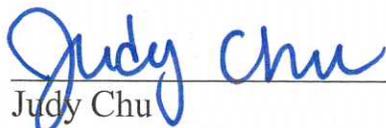
*Marcy Kaptur*

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Judy Chu  
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Member of Congress



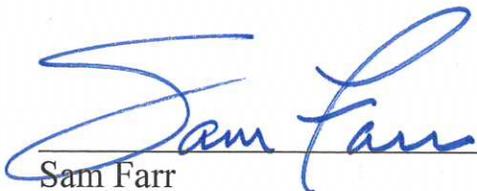
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Peter DeFazio  
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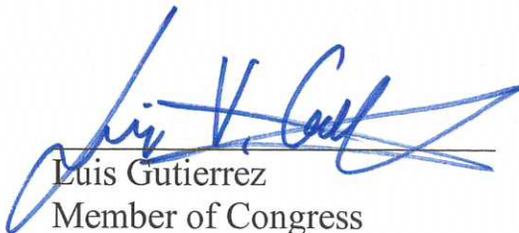
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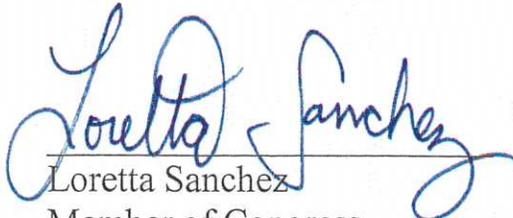
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Luis Gutierrez  
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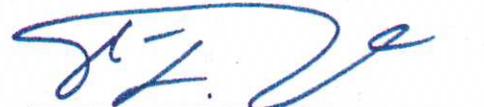


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Loretta Sanchez  
Member of Congress



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Cedric Richmond  
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John Sarbanes  
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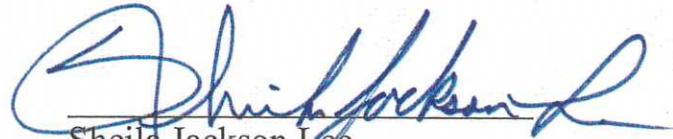
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Alma Adams  
Member of Congress



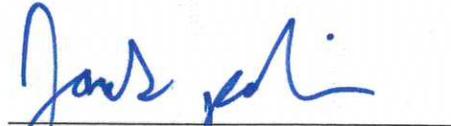
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Tim Ryan  
Member of Congress



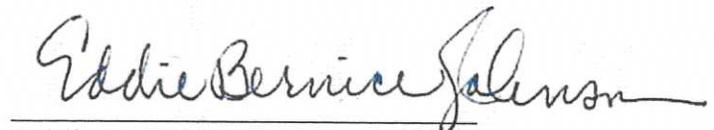
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Sheila Jackson Lee  
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Jared Polis  
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