



*Hispanic American Police
Command Officers
Association*



*National Asian Peace
Officers Association*



*National Latino Peace
Officers Association*



*National Organization of Black
Law Enforcement
Executives*



*Women in Federal Law
Enforcement*

December 15, 2011

The Honorable Lamar Smith
Chairman
House Committee on Judiciary
2426 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John Conyers
Ranking Member
House Committee on Judiciary
2426 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Smith and Ranking Member Conyers:

We, the undersigned, the National Council of Law Enforcement Organizations (NCLEO) support the passage of H.R. 3618, End Racial Profiling Act (ERPA), crucial legislation that would ban profiling by federal, state, local and tribal law enforcement that is based on race, ethnicity, religion, or national origin.

NCLEO members include the Hispanic American Police Command Officers Association (HAPCOA), National Asian Peace Officers Association (NAPOA), National Latino Peace Officers Association (NLPOA), National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE), and the Women in Federal Law Enforcement (WIFLE). Collectively NCLEO works to create a unified national voice to effectuate positive change on the federal, state, and local law enforcement levels through advocacy, outreach, public policy, and education on issues of mutual importance to our organizations.

NCLEO knows that racial profiling is a harmful strategy that makes our communities less safe. Research shows that when law enforcement focuses on race and ethnicity, they pay less attention to criminal behavior, reducing its ability to effectively detecting contraband or uncovering and solving crimes. Racial profiling also undermines the trust that is critical for solving crimes and keeping our communities safe. When members of our communities believe that law enforcement agents are biased or unjust, the communities lose confidence in those that are meant to protect and serve them. Also, they become less likely to report crimes or come forward for police protection if they are victimized.

Existing state laws and federal law enforcement guidance are insufficient and provide inconsistent solutions to resolve the pervasive national problem of racial profiling. In many cases, levels of government can become influenced by regional crime trends and may encourage or even condone biased policing. The recent passage of several state anti-immigrant laws makes the need for a national commitment to eliminating racial profiling all the more pressing. ERPA provides a comprehensive approach to ending racial profiling across American communities.

NCLEO represents thousands of law enforcement officials from all corners of the nation. We work to protect and serve our communities, while honoring our system of American justice. Racial profiling is at odds with America's best traditions and highest values. To protect basic public safety and strengthen our country, we urge you to do your part to pass this critical legislation.

NCLEO applauds the leadership of Sen. Ben Cardin and Rep. John Conyers as lead sponsors of this important legislation in both the Senate and House, respectively. We encourage the House Committee on Judiciary to take up this issue in and pass this legislation, as it is vital to ensuring justice, fairness, and effectiveness in law enforcement. We support and urge the passage of the End Racial Profiling Act of 2011.

Sincerely,

National Council of Law Enforcement Organizations

Tony Cox
National President, Hispanic American Police Command Officers Association (HAPCOA)

Rudy Tai
President, National Asian Peace Officers Association (NAPOA)

Edwin Maldonado
National President, National Latino Peace Officers Association (NLPOA)

Jiles Ship
National President, National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE)

Margaret M. Moore
President, WIFLE Foundation, Inc.

And
Executive Director, Women in Federal Law Enforcement, Inc.