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National Hispanic Medical Association

June 11, 2020

The Honorable Karen Bass
Chair, Congressional Black Caucus
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Jerrold Nadler
Chair, House Judiciary Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairwoman Bass and Chairman Nadler:

On behalf of the National Hispanic Medical Association (NHMA), a nonprofit representing over 50,000 physicians committed to improving the health of Hispanics and other underserved, we strongly support the Justice in Policing Act of 2020 that was introduced by Congresswoman Karen Bass, Congressman Jerrold Nadler, Senator Cory Booker, and Senator Kamala Harris. The Justice in Policing Act will support training to end racial profiling and racial bias, limit chokeholds and carotid holds, and limit force used by police officers.

It is well known that police brutality is increased in racial/ethnic communities compared to Caucasian communities, especially, when the victims are African Americans and Latinos. We recognize that this pattern has increased anxiety and mental health issues among those families and communities whose members are brutally attacked and killed with overextended power and poor judgement, and discrimination.

Subsequently, these acts create mental illness among racial/minority populations that lead to more toxic stress added to poverty, low literacy, limited education, overcrowded housing, food insecurity and limited health care access.

NHMA is a national association that represents over 50,000 physicians who are committed to improving the health of Hispanics and other underserved. We support the Justice in Policing Act of 2020 because it will ultimately improve the quality of life in our racial/ethnic populations. For any questions, please contact me at (202) 628-5895.

Sincerely,

Elena Rios, MD, MSPH, FACP
President & CEO
National Hispanic Medical Association