

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20510**

June 25, 2020

Delaware General Assembly  
411 Legislative Avenue  
Dover, Delaware 19901

Dear Members of the General Assembly,

Over the last several weeks, since the murders of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, and too many others, we, the Congressional Delegation, have heard from Delawareans from all walks of life and from up and down our state. We share the deep pain, frustration, and dismay that many in the First State are grappling with. From these many diverse voices one message has become abundantly clear – that we cannot continue to accept the killing of innocent Americans at the hands of law enforcement. We know and appreciate that many of you have been having the same conversations and are working to turn this pain into action.

As you know, our delegation does not frequently make requests of Delaware’s General Assembly. But we are seeing unprecedented activism, and the energy that is being felt across the First State and all around our country demands more from us than business as usual. Therefore, we urge the General Assembly to make meaningful reforms to law enforcement practices that restores trust in our communities and saves lives. We all have an obligation – at the federal, state, county and city level – to stand arm-in-arm and push for real change that meets this moment.

As Delaware’s representatives in the United States Congress, we believe the federal government must act with a sense of urgency to make real, meaningful, and systemic change. That is why we support the Justice in Policing Act – a strong and comprehensive bill aimed at improving transparency, accountability, and training for law enforcement across the country. Many of the reforms in this legislation are necessary and long overdue. We are heartened that the House of Representatives is expected to pass this life-saving bill later this week. We know that Congress still has a great deal of work to do and pledge to continue pushing the Justice in Policing Act. We must enact bold policies that will urgently and meaningfully address structural and institutional racism in our society. We also recognize that Delaware, like all states, relies on federal resources to support a wide range of programs and services, including critical social services and mental and behavioral health programs, and in recent years, that federal support has been cut time and again. As we work to pass important policing reforms into law, know that we’re also committed to providing our state with as much federal support as possible, including direct aid to Delaware and other states in the next COVID-19 relief package.

Similarly, Governor Carney has enacted through Executive Order a number of important law enforcement reforms, including banning chokeholds and requiring de-escalation training. This is welcome progress, but it is not, and cannot, be a substitute for legislative action. Earlier this month, the Delaware Legislative Black Caucus and Attorney General Kathy Jennings put

forward a number of common-sense reform initiatives in Delaware, mirroring many of the proposals we are considering at the federal level. It is clear that there is much that we agree on – banning chokeholds, de-escalation training, comprehensive reporting and much more. Progress at any level cannot wait. Therefore, we urge the Delaware General Assembly to heed the calls for change from up and down our state and take up these reforms before the 150th General Assembly adjourns on June 30th.

We must all seize this moment, work together, and act urgently to save lives. Thank you for your service to Delaware during these challenging times, and we pledge to continue to working with you at the federal level on these critical issues.

Sincerely yours,



Thomas R. Carper  
United State Senator



Christopher A. Coons  
United States Senator



Lisa Blunt Rochester  
Member of Congress