

RECOMMENDATIONS

From my research and personal experience here are three suggestions regarding social work and the future of policing:

1. Social workers should be present with law enforcement when they are responding to calls in which there is a social and violent issue present (Ex. Suicide threats, child abuse, domestic violence). Social workers should have a continuous partnership with law enforcement. Law enforcement is more directed towards removing individuals from society who express negative behaviors. On the other hand, social workers work with the individual to promote well-being and self-determination. By working together, these two professions can help mend the community and increase harmony.
2. All nonviolent community issues should be redirected to an outside authority that is not a part of the police department that specifically solves community social problems. That way, the problem can be managed by professionals with the appropriate skills that solely focus on community-based problem-solving without violence.
3. Social workers can provide training to law enforcement which can help reduce unnecessary violent policing. These trainings can include historical racism and poverty simulations. Although these trainings may not completely solve racial discrimination in America, it is a method that is feasible and proven to reduce violence among law enforcement. (Abrams, 2020).

"If you are neutral in situations of injustice, you have chosen the side of the oppressor."

Desmond Tutu



2021-2022

GEORGE FLOYD POLICING ACT 2021

H.R. 1280

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INTRODUCTION

Over the years there has been a lack of trust between communities and law enforcement. Many people have died at the hands of police officers due to behaviors fueled by systematic racism.

POLICY DESCRIPTION

This policy hopes to hold law enforcement accountable for misconduct in court, improve transparency through data collection, and reform police training and policies.

POLICE REFORM

- Bans chokeholds, some no-knock warrants
- Police could be charged if act "recklessly"- (acting based on knowledge that their actions may cause harm)
- no longer immune from lawsuits; families can sue

VULNERABLE/ AT-RISK POPULATION

- Black people and other communities of color in hopes to eliminate racial profiling.
- Law enforcement-this policy challenges their standard operating procedures and is being analyzed by a greater population and due to this change, law enforcement has to fight for their credibility within society again.

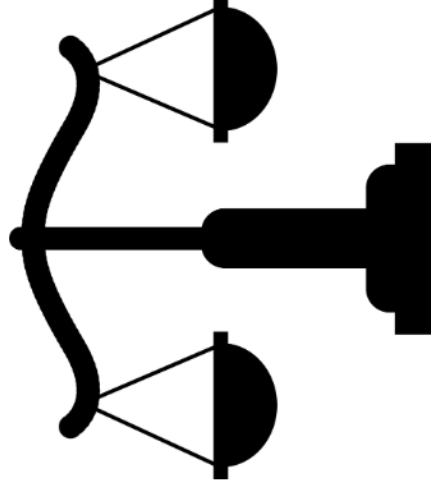
STRENGTHS & LIMITATIONS

STRENGTHS

- Systems need to change in order to see REAL accountability.
- Transparency -through reporting uses of force and racial breakdown of traffic stops. Policeman will be encouraged to wear body-cams and use dashboard cameras.
- Eliminating no-knock warrants- This can prevent more deaths like how it was pictured in the tragic death of Breonna Taylor.
- Liability- shifting police accountability by making it easier to prosecute offensive officers and dispute their rights in civil court.

LIMITATIONS

- A law enforcement officer who had to make a split-second decision can no longer raise that defense when accused of violating someone's rights.
- Other provisions of the bill could potentially encourage frivolous lawsuits against police officers and departments, given the broad scope of activities covered.
- The bill would take away tools that help keep police officers safe by limiting the ability of local law enforcement agencies to receive surplus military equipment.



POLICING & RACISM

Policing in America has a strong history of reflecting racism towards the black community. There are many historical evidences that support this statement. For example, in the Jim Crow era the police had to abide by the "Black Codes". Due to the segregation, if a black person violated any of the laws the police would often provide violent and brutal forms of punishment (Robinson, 2017).

SOCIAL WORK INTERVENTION

DIGNITY AND WORTH OF A PERSON

The relationship between law enforcement and the black community has clearly caused reoccurring tragic events among society. Although there have been some changes made, the black community continues to face oppression and marginalization. They encounter this daily, even when they take on professional status roles like serving in the military or running for congress. Social workers emphasize the value of dignity and worth of a person. This entails that each individual will be cared for in a respectful manner. When interacting with others, social workers will be mindful of the individual's culture and ethnic diversity (NASW, 2021).

This social work value as many others should be embedded into the law makers when policies are being made.

EMPIRICAL RESEARCH

A study was conducted to determine the effect a social worker would have on police engagement during cases of domestic violence. The findings highlighted that the police officers had knowledge for the risk of homicide versus the actual knowledge of domestic violence (Ward-Lasher, A., Messing, J. T., & Hart, B., 2017). This study suggested that social workers should be collaborating with law enforcement on similar cases and the high need of trainings.

It is only right to expand the roles social workers can enter and involve them with police and community engagement. When it comes to relationships social workers have the upper hand.