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ACTION ALERT

DATE: December 27, 2007
TO: Concerned Parties
FROM: Hilary O. Shelton, Director, Washington Bureau

CONTACT YOUR SENATORS AND REPRESENTATIVE
IN THEIR HOME OFFICES IN EARLY JANUARY!

NAACP Urges Swift Action on *End Racial Profiling Act*

LEGISLATION WILL CREATE A NATIONAL PROHIBITION AGAINST RACIAL
PROFILING AND MANDATE DATA COLLECTION BY LAW ENFORCEMENT

THE ISSUE

The *End Racial Profiling Act* attacks the insidious practice of racial profiling by law enforcement on three levels: first, it creates a federal prohibition against racial profiling; second, it provides funding for the retraining of law enforcement officials on how to discontinue and prevent the use of racial profiling; and thirdly, it holds law enforcement agencies that continue to use racial profiling accountable. Senator Russ Feingold (WI), and others have introduced the “***End Racial Profiling Act of 2007***” (S. 2481) in the Senate while Congressman John Conyers, Jr. (MI), has introduced companion legislation in the House (H.R. 4611).

Numerous studies over the past few years have provided us with evidence to support what we have known for decades: law enforcement agents at all levels have consistently used race, ethnicity and national origin when choosing which individuals should be stopped and searched. At the most basic level, it is difficult for our faith in the American judicial system not to be challenged when we cannot even drive down an interstate without being stopped merely because of the color of our skin. Furthermore, evidence clearly demonstrates that racial profiling is not an effective means of law enforcement.

We need The *End Racial Profiling Act* to stop this insidious practice and to help begin to restore the confidence of communities of color throughout the United States in federal, state and local law enforcement. It is supported by numerous civil rights and civil liberties organizations, as well religious associations and most police unions of color.

In light of the overwhelming evidence that racial profiling continues to be employed today the NAACP is strongly urging Congress to pass this legislation in the 110th Congress.

More...

THE ACTION WE NEED YOU TO TAKE:

Contact your U.S. Senators and Member of the House of Representatives and ask them to co-sponsor of **THE “END RACIAL PROFILING ACT”** (S. 2481 / H.R. 4611). To contact your Senators and Representative you should:

✓ **Make a Phone Call:**

Call your Senators and your Representative in Washington by dialing the Capitol Switchboard and asking to be transferred to your Senators'/Congressman's offices. The switchboard phone number is **(202) 224-3121** (see message section, below).

✓ **Write a Letter**

If you choose to write letters to your Senators, send them to:

The Honorable (name of Senator)
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

If you choose to write a letter to your Representative, send it to:

The Honorable (name of Representative)
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

**A SAMPLE
LETTER IS
ATTACHED**

✓ **Send a Fax**

If you would like to send a fax, call your Senators' or Representative's office (through the Capitol switchboard) and ask for their fax numbers (you can use either the attached sample letter or the message box, below).

✓ **Send an E-Mail**

To send an e-mail to your Senators, simply go to www.senate.gov, click on Senators, then click on Contacting Senators (by name or by state). This selection will also help you to identify who your two Senators are.

To send an e-mail to your Representative, go to www.house.gov, and click on “write your representative.” This will help you identify who your congressman is and how to contact him/her. Unfortunately, not all Members of Congress have e-mail addresses.

PLEASE REMEMBER TO CONTACT BOTH OF YOUR SENATORS!

THE MESSAGE:

- ◆ We need this important legislation which takes concrete steps to put an end to the insidious practice of racial profiling at all levels.
- ◆ Racial profiling is prevalent at all levels of law enforcement today; one study has shown that approximately 72% of all routine traffic stops on an interstate in the Northeast occur with African American drivers despite the fact that African Americans make up only about 17% of the driving population.
- ◆ It is difficult for our faith in the American judicial system not to be challenged when we cannot even drive down an interstate without being stopped merely because of the color of our skin.
- ◆ The “End Racial Profiling Act” not only prohibits racial profiling, but it punishes those in law enforcement who continue to use it and it provides training and other incentives for states and local governments to actively pursue policies to eliminate it.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION TO THIS IMPORTANT MATTER!!!

If you have any questions, call Hilary Shelton at the Washington Bureau at (202) 463-2940.

MEMBERSHIP IS POWER! JOIN THE NAACP TODAY.

For more information, call your local NAACP branch or visit www.naACP.org

(date)

The Honorable _____
United State Senate / House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20510 / 20515

Sample Letter

RE: SUPPORT FOR THE “END RACIAL PROFILING ACT”

Dear Senator / Representative _____;

As your constituent, I am writing to urge you to co-sponsor and actively support the “End Racial Profiling Act” S. 2481 / H.R. 4611. This important legislation takes concrete steps to put an end to the insidious practice of racial profiling at the federal, state and local levels.

As numerous studies have demonstrated over the past few years, racial profiling is prevalent throughout law enforcement today. One study has shown that approximately 72% of all routine traffic stops on an interstate in the Northeast occur with African American drivers despite the fact that African Americans make up only about 17% of the driving population. Other studies have shown similar disparities in stops and searches by federal, state and local law enforcement agents.

It is difficult for our faith in the American judicial system not to be challenged when we cannot even drive down an interstate without being stopped merely because of the color of our skin. We need to do all we can to see that this problem is addressed sooner rather than later, so that we can begin to rebuild the trust for law enforcement and law enforcement agents within communities of color. Furthermore, numerous studies have shown that racial profiling is not an effective tool in law enforcement.

The End Racial Profiling Act is important in that it not only specifically bans racial profiling, but it allows victims to seek injunctive relief, it withholds federal funds from state and local governments who persist in this odious practice, and it provides training and other assistance to state and local jurisdictions to help them address the problem head –on.

As I said earlier, I hope that you will co-sponsor and support this legislation and that you will help address the very serious problem of racial profiling. Please let me know what you intend to do, and what I can do to help you in this fight. Thank you in advance for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

(sign and print your name and
remember to include your address)

*Remember to contact
BOTH of your senators*