

Blacks In Government® 2022 National Delegates Assembly Cleveland, Ohio



RESOLUTION

BLACKS IN GOVERNMENT SUPPORTS THE LAW ENFORCEMENT REFORM LEGISLATION H.R. 6762 ESTABLISHING A SPECIAL INSPECTOR GENERAL FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT (SIGLE) ACT, INTRODUCED IN THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES BY CONGRESSMAN GERRY CONNOLLY (D-VA), CHAIRMAN OF THE HOUSE SUBCOMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

WHEREAS, the National Organization of Blacks In Government (BIG), was incorporated in 1976, as a 501[c]3 non-profit organization to, educate and advocate on behalf of Federal, State and Municipal government employees and today, BIG seeks to represent 2.5 million public and private civil servants by continuing to address discrimination in the workplace and its effect on public service; and

WHEREAS, on February 18, 2022, H.R. 6762 was introduced in the 117th U.S. Congress (2020-2022) House of Representatives as a subsequent legislation to counter the Senates non vote on the H.R. 7120, the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act of 2020, supported by a BIG National Resolution adopted on August 23, 2021; and

WHEREAS, H.R. 6762 addresses a wide range of policies and issues regarding policing practices and law enforcement accountability. It includes measures to increase accountability for law enforcement misconduct, to enhance transparency and data collection, and to eliminate discriminatory policing practices; and

WHEREAS, the bill facilitates federal enforcement of constitutional violations (e.g., excessive use of force) by state and local law enforcement. Among other requirements, it does the following:

- lowers the criminal intent standard from willful to knowing or reckless, to convict a law enforcement officer for misconduct in a federal prosecution,
- limits qualified immunity as a defense to liability in a private civil action against a law enforcement officer or state correctional officer, and
- authorizes the Department of Justice to issue subpoenas in investigations of police departments for a pattern or practice of discrimination.

WHEREAS, the bill also creates a national registry—the National Police Misconduct Registry—to compile data on complaints and records of police misconduct; and

WHEREAS, the bill establishes a framework to prohibit racial profiling at the federal, state, and local levels; and

WHEREAS, the bill establishes new requirements for law enforcement officers and agencies, including to report data on use-of-force incidents, to obtain training on implicit bias and racial profiling, and to wear body cameras; and

WHEREAS, Blacks In Government has been out front on parts of this legislation over previous years by adopting BIG National Resolutions calling for and supporting Congressional members seeking an end to Racial Profiling, instituting a National data base for tracking police abuse on black and brown citizens, and whistleblowing protections for good officers.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED.

In furtherance of its advocacy mission, BIG endorses passage of <u>H.R.6762</u>, the <u>SIGLE</u> <u>Act of 2022</u> in the 117th U.S Congress (<u>Bill Summary</u>) and request that:

- (1) The National President of Blacks In Government will write letters to the House of Representatives, the Honorable Nancy Pelosi, House Speaker and U.S. Senate Chairman, the Honorable Mitch McConnell asking both to support passage of this legislation.
- (2) The National President of Blacks In Government will write the President of the United States asking him to sign the legislation, should both the Senate and House agree on a bipartisan version of this legislation.
- (3) The National President of BIG will write a letter to Congressman Gerry Connolly (D-VA), Chairman of the House Subcommittee on Government Operations thanking him for introducing H.R. 6762 legislation aimed at increasing transparency and accountability in American law enforcement.

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED.

The National President of Blacks In Government will broadcast an email via the BIG National Listserver by attaching the adopted letter and resolution sent to Congressional Representatives per this resolution and further broadcast to the BIG membership via the National Listserver any Congressional correspondence in response to this adopted BIG resolution.

^{*}Much of the language in this Resolution is verbatim from the Congress.Gov Website Summary page.

Submitted by:

Dr. Matthew F. Foss

Dr. Matthew F. Fogg
Former BIG National 2nd Vice President
BIG Region XI - Heritage Chapter President & Chief Deputy United States Marshal,
RET. And,

Ms. Sharrell Davis - Heritage Chapter Secretary & RXI Treasurer Ms. Sharrell Davis

June 15, 2022



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RESOLUTION

Reform The Civil Rights Act of 1991

WHEREAS, the National Organization of Blacks In Government, was incorporated in 1976 as a non-profit employee advocacy and professional development organization, to serve, to represent, and to advance the interest of Black Civil Service employees, and to ensure their full, equal and unbiased access to all hiring, development and career advancement opportunities in government, at all levels; and

WHEREAS, the National Constitution of Blacks In Government established a goal to eliminate practices of racism and racial discrimination against Blacks in Government; and

WHEREAS, the National Constitution of Blacks In Government states, that Blacks in government should have the opportunity for full, complete and equitable access to jobs, education, advancement in housing and health services and that they must have recourse to adverse situations without discrimination because of race; and

WHEREAS, the Civil Rights Act of 1991 was "enacted to restore prior interpretations of federal equal employment laws and, ultimately, to strengthen their enforcement mechanisms¹.;" and

WHEREAS, it was November 1991 (31 years ago) when the caps on compensatory and punitive damages were established²; and

WHEREAS, the limits on the amount of compensatory and punitive damages a person can recover when their employer has been found to have discriminated against them are currently limited to the following:

For employers with 15-100 employees, the limit is \$50,000.

For employers with 101-200 employees, the limit is \$100,000.

For employers with 201-500 employees, the limit is \$200,000.

For employers with more than 500 employees, the limit is $$300,000^3$.

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¹ ARTICLE: HONORABLE COMPROMISES AND THE MORAL HIGH GROUD: THE CONFLICT BETWEEN THE RHETORIC AND THE CONTENT OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS ACT OF 1991, 46 Rutgers L. Rev. 1

² ARTICLE: Twenty Years of Compromise: How the Caps on Damages in the Civil Rights Act of 1991 Codified Sex Discrimination, 25 Yale J.L. & Feminism 249

³ EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPURTUNITY COMMISSION: REMEDIES FOR EMPLOYMENT DISCRIMINATION, https://www.eeoc.gov/remedies-employment-discrimination



WHEREAS, the caps and limitations of the current law for damages available to employees do not serve as an adequate deterrent to continued discrimination in the workplace; and

WHEREAS, many federal employee complaints of discrimination never receive a hearing on the merits or even an investigation by the federal agency the employee works at because the employee complaint is dismissed as untimely because the federal sector EEO complaint process only gives a federal employee forty-five (45)⁴ days from the time the employee knew or should have known of the discrimination to file a complaint of discrimination in the federal workplace.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Blacks In Government, Inc. supports amending the Civil Rights Act of 1991, and its applicable implementing regulations and/or procedures to increase the combined compensatory and punitive damages that an employee may recover when discrimination is found in a final agency decision or decision by the EEOC to an amount up to the following:

For employers with 15-100 employees, the limit shall be changed to \$100,000.

For employers with 101-200 employees, the limit shall be changed to \$200,000.

For employers with 201-500 employees, the limit shall be changed to \$400,000.

For employers with more than 500 employees, the limit shall be changed to \$800,000.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Blacks In Government, Inc. supports amending the Civil Rights Act of 1991, and its applicable implementing regulations and/or procedures to increase the amount of time that a federal government employee may submit a filing of discrimination in the federal workplace to the amount of time equal to ninety (90) days from the date the employee knew or should have known that the discriminatory action was taken against them.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Blacks In Government, Inc. will write a letter and also send an electronic transmission by December 14, 2022, to the following stakeholders encouraging them to join in BIG's efforts to amend the Civil Rights Act of 1991, to strengthen the law as described above:

- National Urban League, Marc Morial, CEO, 80 Pine Street, 9th Floor, New York, NY 10005
- NAACP, Derrick Johnson, President & CEO, 4805 Mt. Hope Drive, Baltimore, MD 21215
- Congressional Black Caucus Foundation, Nicole Austin-Hillery, President & CEO, 1720 Massachusetts Ave., NW Washington, DC 20036
- Federally Employed Women, Karen Rainey, President, 455 Massachusetts Ave., NW, P.O. Box 306, Washington, DC 20001

⁴ EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPURTUNITY COMMISSION: Annual Report on the Federal Workforce: Form 462 and MD-715 Data Tables for FY 2017 and FY2018, https://www.eeoc.gov/federal-sector/reports/annual-report-federal-workforce-form-462-and-md-715-data-tables-fy-2017-and



BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Blacks In Government, Inc. will write a letter and also send an electronic transmission by December 14, 2022 ^{5,6}, asking the following government leaders to support and advocate for the passage of legislation that would implement the changes identified above:

President of the United States, Mr. Joseph R. Biden Jr., 1600 Pennsylvania Ave., NW Washington, DC 20500

Vice President of the United States, Mrs. Kamala Harris, 1600 Pennsylvania Ave., NW Washington, DC 20500

Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, Nancy Pelosi, 1236 Longworth H.O.B., Washington, DC 20515

Minority Leader of the U.S. House of Representatives, Kevin McCarthy, 2468 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515

Chair of the Congressional Black Caucus, The Honorable Congresswoman Joyce Beatty, 2303 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515

Chair of the U.S. House Committee on the Judiciary, Jerrold Nadler, 2141 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515

The U.S. House Committee on the Judiciary, Chair, The Subcommittee on Constitution, Civil Rights, and Civil Liberties, Steven Cohen, 2104 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515

United States Senate, Majority Leader, Charles E. Schumer, 322 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, DC 20510

United States Senate, Minority Leader, Mitch McConnell, 317 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington, DC 20510

Chair of the U.S. Senate Committee on Judiciary, Dick Durbin,711 Hart Senate Building, Washington, DC 20510

Estimated Cost of implementation first year: \$8.50 for stamps if not already available in BIG supply.

Estimate Cost after first year: \$0

Respectfully Submitted,

Anthony W. Lee, J.D. National Corresponding Secretary Chair, RXI Legislative Committee President, Parklawn Chapter

⁵ United States Senate: Tentative 2022 Legislative Schedule, U.S. Senate: Tentative 2022 Legislative Schedule

⁶ United States House Vote Schedule, <u>2022-HOUSE-CALENDAR.pdf</u> (majorityleader.gov)

Blacks In Government, Inc. correspondingsecretary@bignet.org 443-552-9492

Background Resource and Information in Support of BIG 2022 Resolution – Reform the Civil Rights Act of 1991

Limits on Compensatory & Punitive Damages https://www.eeoc.gov/remedies-employment-discrimination

Annual Report on the Federal Workforce: Form 462 and MD-715 Data Tables for FY 2017 and FY 2018

Annual Report on the Federal Workforce: Form 462 and MD-715 Data Tables for FY 2017 and FY 2018 |
U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (eeoc.gov)

2022 Congressional Calendar

https://rational360.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/2022-Combined-Congressional-Calendar.pdf

CBCF

https://www.cbcfinc.org/about/leadership-team/

NAACP

https://naacp.org/people/derrick-johnson

National Urban League https://nul.org/our-team

Federally Employed Women (FEW)

https://www.few.org/about-us/national-officers/

The Biden-Harris Administration https://www.whitehouse.gov/administration/

Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives https://www.speaker.gov/

Minority Leader of the U.S. House of Representatives https://kevinmccarthy.house.gov/

Chair of the Congressional Black Caucus https://cbc.house.gov/about/leadership.htm

Chair of the U.S. House Committee on Judiciary https://judiciary.house.gov/

The U.S. House Committee on Judiciary, Chair, The Subcommittee on Constitution, Civil Rights, and Civil Liberties

https://judiciary.house.gov/subcommittees/subcommittee/?SubcommitteeID=14929

Chuck Schumer: Scheduling schumer@schumer.senate.gov

Mitch McConnell: senator@mcconnell.senate.gov

Dick Durbin: schedule@durbin.senate.gov