



January 25, 2021

House Ways and Means
Indiana House of Representatives
Indiana General Assembly
200 W. Washington St.
Indianapolis, IN 46202

To Chairman Tim Brown and Committee:

On behalf of Indiana Black Expo, Inc., I want to thank you for allowing IBE to provide written testimony regarding HB 1006.

During these troubling times, we call upon our legislature to advance community-centered policy solutions to equip communities and police departments with best practices and 21st century policing models to increase trust, fairness, justice and mutual respect between our police departments and the communities they serve. We believe HB 1006 authored by Representative Greg Steuerwald is a step in the right direction.

IBE, a 50 year-old organization with thousands of members, volunteers and constituents throughout the state of Indiana, serves as an effective voice and vehicle for the social and economic advancement of African Americans. Unfortunately, too many Black people have encountered toxic and fatal encounters with law enforcement. As a Black woman with a 25 year-old Black son and 16 year-old Black daughter, I have had “the talk” with them about how their goal is to survive (rather than advocate for their constitutional rights) if they are pulled over or stopped by police. Our fear and mistrust is supported by data. Police have shot and killed more than 1,000 people in the United States over the past year. Moreover, Black people are disproportionately more likely than white people to be killed by the police. For far too long, the cycle of police brutality and racism has been met with cosmetic tinkering instead of substantive structural change. Last year’s public protests across the country and throughout our state are a response not only to unjust policing of Black people but are a cry for action to our public officials for structural change.

IBE supports the following reform policies included in HB 1006: the decertification of bad officers under less stringent requirements; penal consequences for intentionally turning off body and vehicle cameras; more expansive employment data from officers’ employers during the pre-hire phase; minimum standards for de-escalation training; and a ban on the use of chokeholds. We believe that these changes will further advance trust and fairness in the criminal justice system and improve relations among police officers and the communities they serve. The

establishment of trust is critical to public safety, not only to protect both our officers and individual citizens but also to reduce violent crime in our communities.

We recognize that more work remains to be done in building trust between the Black community and law enforcement; however, HB 1006 could represent significant progress for communities across the state. We urge your committee to recommend HB 1006 to pass as introduced.

Respectfully,

Tanya Bell Mckinzie

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President & CEO
Indiana Black Expo, Inc.