



### [Congressional Democrats Unveil a Police Reform Bill](#)

Earlier this week, Democrats from both the House and Senate announced newly-proposed police reform legislation in the aftermath of the George Floyd murder. The bill, titled the 'Justice in Policing Act,' seeks to implement a variety of reforms including a prohibition on the use of chokeholds, the creation of a national registry to track police misconduct, a ban on no-knock warrants in drug-related cases, and lower legal standards to pursue penalties against police malpractice. The measure, which the House is expected to take up later this month, is being put forward at a time when widespread protests against police brutality and racial injustice continue to take place across the country. Speaker Nancy Pelosi expressed confidence that the bill would pass in the House, and said that she hopes Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell then "swiftly" takes it up in the upper chamber of Congress.

The death of George Floyd in Minneapolis while under police custody over two weeks ago sparked large-scale protests in major cities around the country. The 'Justice in Policing Act' bill proposed by Congressional Democrats in response to the nationwide outrage has more than 200 co-sponsors in the House and Senate. Congressional Black Caucus Chairwoman Karen Bass, one of the lead authors of the legislation, stated at the press conference on Monday announcing the bill that the power of the protest movement across the United States will help Congress pass the measure. She added that not only would it hold police more accountable and increase transparency, but it would also change police culture as well. Representative Emanuel Cleaver, also a member of the Congressional Black Caucus, emphasized the importance of Democrats making sure the package reflects the demands of those protesting and calling for change. Cleaver said that in the past, lawmakers from both parties have shied away from addressing systemic issues regarding policing but that this moment is different because of the degree of mainstream focus on the problem.

The House is expected to pass the bill in the coming weeks, and while its fate in the Republican-controlled Senate is uncertain, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell and other high-profile Republicans have acknowledged "egregious wrongs" in police brutality cases. Last week, McConnell stated that "It's certainly something that we need to take a look at. We'll be talking to our colleagues about what, if anything, is appropriate for us to do in the wake of what's going on." Republican Senator Lindsey Graham, who chairs the Senate Judiciary Committee, also announced plans for a June 16th hearing on police use of force.

After initially signaling that their response to the Congressional Democrats' bill would be unveiled by the end of this week, House Republicans appear to be delaying their proposal addressing police reforms. A senior Republican aide stated that the House Republican package could be released as soon as next week, but the situation remains fluid. The delay comes as Republican Senator Tim Scott announced his 10-point draft proposal, and it's unclear at this point if House Republicans will simply endorse that or craft their own legislation.