



CBCF EXECUTIVE ORDER TRACKER

Strengthening and Unleashing America's Law Enforcement to Pursue Criminals and Protect Innocent Citizens

Executive Order #14288

Date Issued: April 28, 2025

Topic: Criminal Justice, Immigration, DEI

WHAT DOES THIS EXECUTIVE ORDER DO?

- This executive order increases the provision of military officers and national security assets who may serve alongside state and local law enforcement officials.
- The order dispatches Homeland Security Task Forces to work in states and municipalities to prevent crime.
- The order reinforces the Trump Administration's position that diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) initiatives are civil-rights violations and orders the Attorney General to prosecute state and local officials who engage in DEI practices that "endanger citizens."





HOW WILL THIS EXECUTIVE ORDER BE ENFORCED?

- This executive order is primarily enforced by the Attorney General.
- The order directs the Attorney General to establish a protocol for the federal government and pro bono attorneys to support law enforcement officers who “unjustly incur” legal expenses due to their actions while on duty.
- The order instructs the Attorney General and other relevant federal agency heads to “maximize the use of Federal resources” to bolster state and local law enforcement efforts, including:
 - Sending best practices for “aggressively” policing all crimes;
 - Improving the quality and accessibility of training for law enforcement officers;
 - Increasing pay and benefits for law enforcement officers;
 - Expanding legal protections for law enforcement officers;
 - Lengthening sentences for crimes against law enforcement officers;
 - Encouraging investment in prison security and capacity;
 - Increasing investment in crime data collection and distribution to ensure uniformity across jurisdictions.
- The order also tasks the Attorney General with modifying, rescinding, or concluding any proceedings or agreements that “unduly impede the performance of law enforcement functions” within 60 days of the order’s issuance.
- The order directs the Attorney General to prioritize the prosecution of state and local officials who violate federal law by implementing DEI initiatives or prohibiting law enforcement officers from “carrying out duties necessary for public safety.”
- The order instructs the Secretary of Defense and the Attorney General to determine how militaristic training, equipment, and personnel can best be used to fight crime.



HOW DOES THIS IMPACT BLACK COMMUNITIES?

- This order will increase the over-policing of Black communities. A 2020 study found that expanding police forces in cities with the largest Black populations disproportionately increased low-level arrests without equivalent public safety benefits. Moreover, a 2023 audit of police movements found that police officers spend significantly more time in Black neighborhoods than other areas with similar socioeconomic demographics and crime rates. The order's insistence that law enforcement officials aggressively police all crimes will increase Black Americans' interactions with law enforcement officials and raise the likelihood of police violence.
- Historically, Black people have been disproportionately impacted by police violence. More recently, from 2018–2020, Black Americans were more than twice as likely as white Americans to experience a threat or nonfatal use of force during police interactions. In 2024, 25% of those killed by the police were Black. Because this executive order will provide local law enforcement officials military training and equipment with a directive to aggressively police communities, the number of Black police brutality victims will likely increase.
- The order also shields law enforcement officers from criminal liability based on the actions they take on the job. However, prior to this order, law enforcement officials were largely exempt from prosecution for their on-duty actions because of qualified immunity. Qualified immunity is a legal doctrine established by the Supreme Court that protects police officers and other state actors from liability for misconduct, even when they violate the law. In practice, qualified immunity makes it difficult for victims of police brutality to receive justice. One thousand two hundred sixty people were killed by the police in 2024, the most in a decade, and less than one percent of the officers involved were charged with crimes. State actors must violate "clearly established law" to be exempted from qualified immunity. This typically involves egregious crimes, like the murder of George Floyd. The order permits the provision of federal funds to support the legal fees of officers who engage in these acts and further reduces police accountability, which could increase unchecked violence and anti-Black discrimination.



HOW ARE CBC MEMBERS RESPONDING?

- In recent times, the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) has been a strong advocate for police reform and accountability. In 2023, the CBC issued a response to the third anniversary of the murder of George Floyd outlining the importance of implementing fair policing practices.
 - “As we honor the life and memory of Mr. Floyd, we are reminded of the work that we must do to put an end to bad policing in America. [...] The Congressional Black Caucus has [outlined] key provisions that will save lives in Black and brown communities [including] updating its use of force policies and requirements for body-worn cameras; prohibiting sale and purchase for military-style weapons; providing stronger guidance to states and localities on death in custody investigations; and banning chokeholds and minimizing the use of no-knock warrants. The CBC will continue our work to pass police reform in Congress.” [Full Statement](#)
- For more information on the CBC’s history of pioneering criminal justice reform, visit [Avoice](#), our virtual library.