

## Association of State Criminal Investigative Agencies

June 17, 2020

The Honorable Tim Scott United States Senate 104 Hart Senate Office Building Washington, DC 20510

## **Re: JUSTICE Act of 2020**

Dear Senator Scott:

On behalf of the Association of State Criminal Investigative Agencies (ASCIA), I am writing to express support for the JUSTICE Act of 2020. ASCIA is a professional association representing the lead statewide criminal investigative agencies in 48 states.

ASCIA members recognize the importance of acting in this moment to improve trust between law enforcement and all communities in America. We believe your bill addresses critical issues regarding use of force data, enhanced training, and law enforcement officer disciplinary records in a way that will lead to real improvements. We are committed to working with you and your colleagues on provisions to ensure grant programs are used to incentivize and enable meaningful reforms.

We take pride in the fact that accountability is at the heart of our agencies' missions. Since many of us have the primary responsibility in our states for conducting independent investigations into officer uses of force, ASCIA has a unique perspective on what works and what is needed to improve accountability. ASCIA played a leading role with the Federal Bureau of Investigation to establish the FBI Use of Force Data Collection program which would be expanded under your legislation.

We commend your leadership on these important issues and look forward to working with you and all members of the House and Senate to ensure effective legislation is passed.

Sincerely,

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Mark Keel President, ASCIA Chief, South Carolina Law Enforcement Division

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