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LDF Applauds White House’s Pledge to Veto House Resolution of Disapproval for Washington D.C. Policing Reform Bill

Today, a White House official stated that President Biden would veto a resolution of disapproval, voted out of the House Oversight Committee on Wednesday, that seeks to strike down a locally enacted police accountability measure in Washington D.C. The resolution, H.J. Res. 42, would overrule the District’s Comprehensive Policing and Justice Reform Amendment Act of 2022 (CPJRAA), which enacted police transparency and accountability measures for the city, not unlike those in President Biden’s Executive Order, Advancing Effective, Accountable Policing and Strengthen Public Safety.

In response, LDF President and Director-Counsel Janai S. Nelson issued the following statement:

“We are pleased to see President Biden’s unequivocal commitment to veto H.J. Res. 42, should it pass. The Washington D.C. CPJRAA is an essential, common-sense measure, to begin addressing the institutional issues that drive continued police violence that disproportionately harms Black people and other people of color in the city and across the country. The provisions of the CPJRAA, including a ban on the use of neck restraints, and limitations on the use of military grade weapons, are similar to measures proposed by the President himself in the Executive Order, Advancing Effective, Accountable Policing and Strengthen Public Safety. Most importantly, they reflect the work of District community members who have long been pushing for police accountability. — and whose wishes H.J. Res. 42 would overrule.

“While the targeted bills aimed to accomplish different things, the goal behind H.J. Res. 42 and an earlier resolution of disapproval (H.J. Res. 26), recently signed into law by President Biden and striking down the District’s Revised Criminal Code Act of 2022, is the same: to overturn the choices of District residents. Today’s White House announcement indicates that the president will not participate in the increasingly troubling efforts of legislatures to override the democratic will of majority-Black localities — and in this case specifically, Washington D.C.’s autonomy.”

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