

SHEILA JACKSON LEE
18TH DISTRICT, TEXAS
COMMITTEES:

JUDICIARY
SUBCOMMITTEES:
Ranking Member
Crime, and Federal Government Surveillance
Immigration Integrity, Security, and Enforcement
Constitution and Limited Government

HOMELAND SECURITY
SUBCOMMITTEES:
Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Protection
Emergency Management and Technology
Counterterrorism, Law Enforcement, and
Intelligence

BUDGET COMMITTEE

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

CHIEF DEPUTY WHIP
DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS

VICE CHAIR
CONGRESSIONAL PROGRESSIVE CAUCUS

FOUNDER AND CO-CHAIR
CONGRESSIONAL CHILDREN'S CAUCUS

OSCE PA Ad Hoc Committee in Migration

CONGRESSWOMAN SHEILA JACKSON LEE OF TEXAS

**RANKING MEMBER OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON CRIME AND FEDERAL
GOVERNMENT SURVEILLANCE**

**MARKUP OF H.R. 7581, THE IMPROVING LAW ENFORCEMENT
OFFICER SAFETY AND WELLNESS THROUGH DATA ACT**

OPENING STATEMENT

BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

APRIL 16, 2024



- Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
- As the Ranking Member of the Crime subcommittee, I am disappointed that this legislation is how Republicans are choosing to use our time. There is so much that we could do to *actually* help law enforcement.

- As this bill notes, law enforcement officers face significant challenges. Every day, our federal, state, tribal, and local law enforcement officers put their lives on the line to do this important work and more.
- But today, instead of focusing on providing law enforcement agencies with the tools and resources they need to make their dangerous jobs as safe as possible, we are spending this Committee's limited time on a bill that, despite its title, will not make a tangible difference in officer safety or wellness.
- This bill offers to collect information. While that information might be useful, much of it is already collected.
- I should point out that this bill would collect much less information on police encounters than would be collected under the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act, bipartisan legislation which the House has already passed twice in previous Congresses, and which I plan to reintroduce soon.
- Under the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act, states would be required to report uses of force *by or against* a law enforcement officer – valuable data that would enable us to craft policies to make everyone safer.

- Unfortunately, this bill falls far short of that objective by only requiring the Attorney General to provide reports to Congress, and those reports will likely not have any more information than what is already collected by DOJ.
- Lastly, I want to note that we have met with several police groups about many bills that they believe would actually help make them safer and improve the wellbeing of the officers they represent. This includes several Republican-led bills that have already passed in the Senate.
- For instance, the American Law Enforcement SAVER Act, which would establish standards for trauma kits used by law enforcement and establish best practices for using these kits.
- The majority could schedule votes on this and other bills *right now*.
- Instead, we are considering a bill that takes a step backward from the meaningful reporting mandates in the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act and falls short of the substantive bipartisan agreements we were able to reach on other legislation in past Congresses.

- When Democrats regain control of the House, we will invest in the tools, training, and resources that *actually* support the challenging work of our brave law enforcement officers across the country.
- Until then, I urge our Republican colleagues to work with us and law enforcement on meaningful improvements that we can achieve together – which this bill is not.
- I thank the Chairman and I yield back.