



Impact Statement of Sequita Thompson
Grandmother of Stephon Clark
Oversight Hearing on Policing Practices
U.S. House Judiciary Committee
Thursday, September 19, 2019

We know that federal bills to address use of force in policing modeled on California's AB 392 have been introduced in this Congress. With the passing of AB 392, our family has mixed feelings. We are thankful that the political precedent has been made, but frankly we don't feel anymore at ease because Stephon Clark is not with us and he should be. He could be.

Our hearts are still broken. His children still do not have a father. His little sister, who was in the house when it happened, is still working through the trauma of hearing her brother be shot to death. AB 392 cannot change that. We are thankful that a law on use of deadly force exists, however what AB 392 has become wouldn't have protected my grandson. The heart of the law was taken out and watered down to appease the people that are responsible for killing him. AB 392 doesn't protect my family, or any other family that has been affected by police terrorism. This law protects the police. This law continues to enforce the ideology that it could be "necessary" to murder an unarmed person. This law is semantics. This law doesn't believe in the effectiveness of its own country's judicial system because it disregards the due process of the law.

I ask that you consider my words during your discussions on use on federal use of force legislation. It is important that a national standard be set.

If Stephon was guilty of a crime he should have been proven guilty in a court of law. That is the law of this land we call America. You are innocent until proven guilty, not executed. We know officers are able to apprehend a subject without using lethal force. It happens all the time when the suspects don't look like my grandson. He was unarmed, it was an egregious use of force. Officers Mercadel and Robinet need to be held responsible for the murder of Stephon Clark.

Sequita Thompson