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

June 17, 2020

**REPUBLICAN STUDY COMMITTEE**  
**CHAIRMAN**

**COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY**

**SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE CONSTITUTION, CIVIL RIGHTS**  
**AND CIVIL LIBERTIES**

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**COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES**

**SUBCOMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT**  
**AND INVESTIGATIONS**

**DEPUTY REPUBLICAN LEADER**

**SUBCOMMITTEE ON WATER, OCEANS AND WILDLIFE**

The Honorable Steve Cohen  
Chairman  
Judiciary Subcommittee on the Constitution,  
Civil Rights, and Civil Liberties  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Cohen:

I write to express my sincere concern with the haste in which the Judiciary Committee is proceeding in its consideration of H.R. 7120, the Justice in Policing Act of 2020. As last week's oversight hearing on police practices and law enforcement accountability illustrated, we have a mandate to consider substantive reforms to ensure transparency and accountability in law enforcement in a bipartisan manner.

I am concerned that we will squander that opportunity if the majority rushes this process and advances a bill that causes negative consequences in our communities and puts law enforcement officers in harm's way. I am especially concerned about the qualified immunity and no-knock warrant provisions in H.R. 7120, and I respectfully ask that you schedule hearings in our Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights, and Civil Liberties so that members can be better informed before being asked to craft such far reaching policies in these areas.

With regard to qualified immunity, my thoughts are drawn to the words of Justice Clarence Thomas when he wrote, "until we shift the focus of our inquiry to whether immunity existed at common law, we will continue to substitute our own policy preferences for the mandates of Congress." Indeed, it is within the purview of Congress to consider policy for qualified immunity, and I believe the gravity of this issue warrants further investigation, not a hasty effort to fully repeal it.

In a similar vein, H.R. 7120's ban on no-knock warrants in federal drug cases creates a juxtaposition between the safety of law enforcement officers and the Fourth Amendment right to be free from unreasonable searches and seizures. There are many scenarios in which a no-knock warrant against a known and dangerous criminal is justified and, in fact necessary, to ensure the safety of law enforcement, suspects and others within a dwelling. Again, my concern is that H.R. 7120 forces members into an all or nothing decision, which I believe is an unnecessary outcome of haste and a dereliction of our responsibility of due diligence.

For these reasons, and in the interest of working together in good faith toward meaningful reform, I respectfully ask that you schedule hearings in the Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights, and Civil Liberties as soon as possible so that we may properly examine these issues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mike Johnson" with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mike Johnson  
Member of Congress