



Indianapolis  
Urban League

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**Empowering Communities.  
Changing Lives.**

Senate Corrections and Criminal Law  
Indiana General Assembly  
200 W. Washington St.  
Indianapolis, IN 46202

The Indianapolis Urban League condemns violence of all kinds including against police officers. We have done so publicly when threats were made against officers in our community by agitators in the past and during last year's protests. Our position has always been consistent and clear.

We also recognize that citizens have a right to dissent, assemble and peacefully protest. Many of the civil rights gains achieved by African Americans and other marginalized communities have been achieved through these actions.

We oppose SB 194 not because we are indifferent to officer safety; to the contrary we are very concerned about the physical as well as mental well-being of all law enforcement. We oppose SB 194 because it is unnecessary and is clearly intended to chill and limit justified and constitutionally protected dissent. If passed, it will be disproportionately used against African Americans, other people of color and those who would dare dissent or protest in favor of racial equity or equality.

IC 35-44.1-2-13 already stipulates that "A person who recklessly, knowingly, or intentionally engaged in conduct that is likely to provoke a reasonable person to commit battery commits provocation, a Class C infraction." We also note that resisting arrest is a special crime already reserved for use by police officers. Thus, SB 194 is not needed as laws are already in place that will allow law enforcement to address such conduct without impacting citizens' rights to dissent.

Respectfully,

*Tony Mason*

Tony Mason  
President & CEO