

## OFFICERS

Hon. Cedric Richmond  
Chair

Hon. André Carson  
First Vice Chair

Hon. Karen Bass  
Second Vice Chair

Hon. Brenda Lawrence  
Secretary

Hon. Gwen Moore  
Whip

Hon. Anthony Brown  
Parliamentarian

Hon. Yvette D. Clarke  
Member-At-Large

## MEMBERS

Hon. John Conyers, Jr. MI - '65  
Hon. John Lewis, GA - '87  
Hon. Eleanor Holmes Norton, DC - '91  
Hon. Maxine Waters, CA - '91  
Hon. Sanford D. Bishop, Jr., GA - '93  
Hon. James E. Clyburn, SC - '93  
Hon. Alcee L. Hastings, FL - '93  
Hon. Eddie Bernice Johnson, TX - '93  
Hon. Bobby L. Rush, IL - '93  
Hon. Robert C. "Bobby" Scott, VA - '93  
Hon. Bennie G. Thompson, MS - '93  
Hon. Sheila Jackson Lee, TX - '95  
Hon. Elijah Cummings, MD - '96  
Hon. Danny K. Davis, IL - '97  
Hon. Gregory W. Meeks, NY - '98  
Hon. Barbara Lee, CA - '98  
Hon. William Lacy Clay, Jr., MO - '01  
Hon. David Scott, GA - '03  
Hon. G.K. Butterfield, NC - '04  
Hon. Emanuel Cleaver II, MO - '05  
Hon. Al Green, TX - '05  
Hon. Gwen Moore, WI - '05  
Hon. Yvette D. Clarke, NY - '07  
Hon. Keith Ellison, MN - '07  
Hon. Hank Johnson, GA - '07  
Hon. André Carson, IN - '08  
Hon. Marcia L. Fudge, OH - '08  
Hon. Karen Bass, CA - '11  
Hon. Cedric Richmond, LA - '11  
Hon. Terri Sewell, AL - '11  
Hon. Frederica Wilson, FL - '11  
Hon. Donald M. Payne, Jr., NJ - '12  
Hon. Joyce Beatty, OH - '13  
Hon. Hakeem Jeffries, NY - '13  
Hon. Marc Veasey, TX - '13  
Hon. Robin Kelly, IL - '13  
Hon. Cory Booker, NJ - '13  
Hon. Alma Adams, NC - '14  
Hon. Brenda Lawrence, MI - '15  
Hon. Mia Love, UT - '15  
Hon. Stacey Plaskett, VI - '15  
Hon. Bonnie Watson Coleman, NJ - '15  
Hon. Dwight Evans, PA - '16  
Hon. Kamala D. Harris, CA - '17  
Hon. Lisa Blunt Rochester, DE - '17  
Hon. Anthony Brown, MD - '17  
Hon. Val Demings, FL - '17  
Hon. Al Lawson, FL - '17  
Hon. A. Donald McEachin, VA - '17



July 13, 2017

Mr. Glenn A. Fine, Esq.  
Acting Inspector General  
Office of the Inspector General  
United States Department of Defense  
4800 Mark Center Drive  
Alexandria, VA 22350

Dear Department of Defense Office of the Inspector General,

As Members of the Congressional Black Caucus, we are writing to call your attention to a deeply troubling report published by Protect our Defenders regarding striking racial disparities plaguing the military justice system. We request that you review the report and direct the Department of Defense Inspector General to conduct an evaluation of the racial disparities faced by black service members under the military justice or disciplinary system.

According to data provided by each service branch, black service members were more likely than white service members to face military justice or disciplinary action. The report outlines this disturbing trend from 2006 to 2015 and demonstrates that the disparity has worsened in recent years. While this inconsistency of treatment occurs at varying levels between each branch, "black service members were at least 1.29 times and as much as 2.61 times more likely than white service members to have an action taken against them in an average year."

Greater commitment to and emphasis on the diversity of the officer corps across all services could alleviate some of the issues addressed in this report. Per the Military Leadership Diversity Commission's 2011 report, officers are much less diverse than the enlisted troops they lead, as are many senior noncommissioned officers. These two populations are the primary administrators and advisors to the administrators of disciplinary action. Thus, these populations have a great deal of influence in considering the types and severity of disciplinary proceedings and must be sufficiently representative of the population that they are leading.

Moving forward, we request the Department of Defense Office of the Inspector General conduct a thorough review of each service's racial and ethnic data regarding military justice system actions and outcomes. Additionally, we request that the Department provide a plan to assess the underlying causes of disciplinary

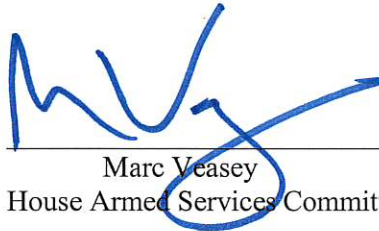
discrepancies impacting black service members and rectify this disturbing issue. We appreciate your consideration and prompt response to this letter within two weeks of receipt.

Thank you for your attention to this serious matter.

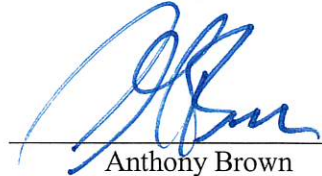
Sincerely,



Cedric Richmond  
CBC, Chair



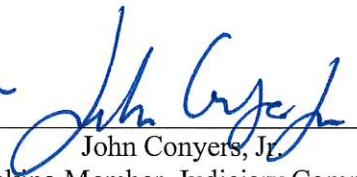
Marc Veasey  
House Armed Services Committee



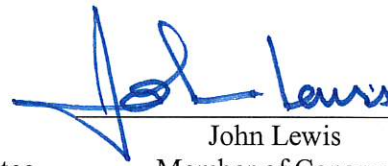
Anthony Brown  
House Armed Services Committee



A. Donald McEachin  
House Armed Services Committee



John Conyers, Jr.  
Ranking Member, Judiciary Committee



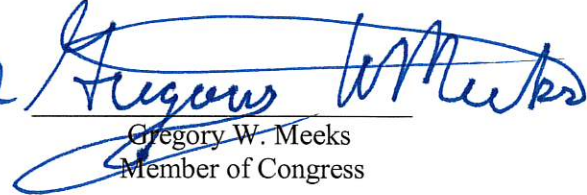
John Lewis  
Member of Congress



Eleanor Holmes Norton  
Member of Congress



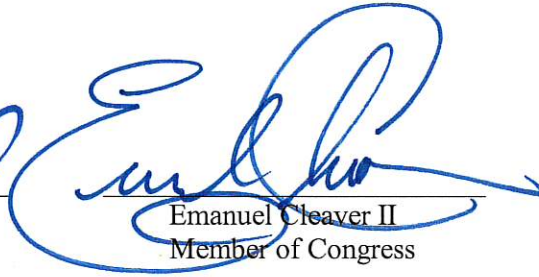
Sheila Jackson Lee  
Member of Congress



Gregory W. Meeks  
Member of Congress



G. K. Butterfield  
Member of Congress



Emanuel Cleaver II  
Member of Congress

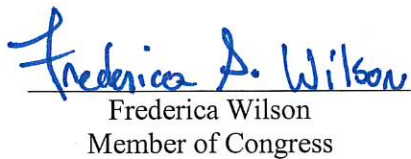


Gwen Moore  
Member of Congress

  
Yvette D. Clarke  
Member of Congress

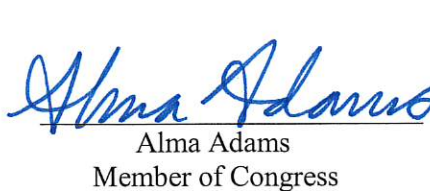
  
Marcia L. Fudge  
Member of Congress

  
Karen Bass  
Member of Congress

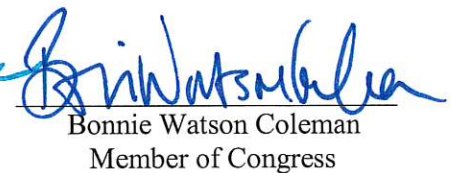
  
Frederica Wilson  
Member of Congress

  
Donald M. Payne, Jr.  
Member of Congress

  
Joyce Beatty  
Member of Congress

  
Alma Adams  
Member of Congress

  
Brenda Lawrence  
Member of Congress

  
Bonnie Watson Coleman  
Member of Congress

  
Dwight Evans  
Member of Congress

  
Lisa Blunt Rochester  
Member of Congress