



MEMORANDUM

To: Senator Michelle Scheible, Chair, Senate Judiciary Committee

From: Yvette Williams, Chair, Clark County Black Caucus

Date: May 21, 2021

Reference: Opposition to SB452

On behalf of the members of the Clark County Black Caucus and its Executive Board, please be advised that the CCBC is in opposition to Senate Bill 452 as written and ask the Legislative Senate Judicial Committee to vote NO on a bill that will potentially endanger BIPOC who legally carry a gun and may increase racial profiling of residents and those visiting our great State.

We are in support of the intent of this bill and policies to curb gun violence. In fact, we have members of our Caucus that have directly been impacted by the events of October 1st and other gun violence. However, research shows that communities of color are policed more often and subjected to stop and frisk policies. We believe that this policy will subject legal gun owners that are members of the African American community to lethal encounters with law enforcement, often resulting in their death or bodily harm.

The notion that a “verbal” warning mentioned in the bill would somehow mitigate the fears of a Black (wo)man carrying a gun, we are reminded of incidence such as Philandro Castile and hope you are too. Questions such as “was a verbal warning given” and what is the proof of that, resulting in detention or worse. Therefore, we are of the opinion that should this bill pass, individuals from the BIPOC communities will disproportionately be stopped and frisked, and/or detained as a result.

As always, we are available to work with the bill sponsor on this proposed bill.