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Contact Information:

Terry L. Crowder
Chair, Kansas Democratic African-American Caucus
tichoorah@outlook.com
785-273-7541



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Kansas Democratic African-American Caucus Releases Statement of George Floyd's Death and Calls for Change

The African-American Caucus of the Kansas Democratic Party recognizes that America is at a turning point. The Pandemic of 2020 has claimed the lives of over 35,000 African Americans due to lack of adequate health care and affordable health insurance. We continue to be faced with a much older pandemic—the senseless killing of African Americans by police. During this pandemic, we have loss Ahmad Aubrey, Breonna Taylor, Tony McDade, and now George Floyd by police brutality. On the same day George Floyd was brutally murdered, we must remember Amy Cooper's deliberate fake distressed phone call to police accusing a black man of attacking her in a New York City park. African Americans continue to be the target of institutionalized racism and brutal and deadly oppressions. Enough is Enough!

June 2nd was designated as "Black Out Day." This decree gave us an opportunity to reflect on the next step our Caucus will take to eliminate the social injustices in our society. First, we must channel our anger in a constructive manner. We do not encourage or condone any violent actions because of the murder of George Floyd. We do acknowledge the pain, suffering, and frustration that our people have endured for over four hundred years because of racism. Second, we must strategically work with other civil rights organization, such as the *NAACP*, the *National Urban League*, *Rainbow/PUSH Coalition*, and *Black Lives Matter* to bring about immediate changes in the criminal justice system.

As the African-American Caucus, we will continue to seek and influence policies in the criminal justice system by demanding drastic changes in the training of law enforcement, implementing community policing, recruiting and hiring more minority officers, requiring that body cameras and vehicle dashcams are "on," and establishing independent review boards, to investigate misconduct by police officers.

The African-American Caucus will continue to advocate for quality education, affordable healthcare, and housing, in addition to economic development and job training for African Americans. We will also seek to provide, promote, and develop leadership in the African-American community.

Last, we encourage all people of color to register to vote. Your vote is your voice. Please spend time educating yourself on the candidates and issues. We need to make sure when casting our ballots that we elect candidates who will act on real reform for us. Collectively, we can begin to heal as a nation when we put an end to the racist rhetoric of "45" on November 3rd.

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