

Senator Reverend Raphael Warnock Priorities and Leadership: *Criminal Justice Reform and Safety*

Senator Warnock strongly supports keeping our communities safe, and has pushed to strengthen federal funding for local police departments to hire officers for community policing and other law enforcement programs. The Senator also advocated for gun safety legislation to expand background checks and make sure guns aren't ending up in the hands of people who shouldn't have them.

Priorities & Leadership

Supporting Law Enforcement

- Senator Warnock requested \$400 million for the Department of Justice's Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) hiring program, which gives funding to local police departments to hire additional police officers for community policing programs, and full funding for the Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Program (Byrne JAG) program, which provides additional personnel, equipment, supplies, support, training, and information systems for local police
- The Senator also successfully secured earmarks in the draft appropriations bills that support community outreach programs for the Roswell police and new diversion and mental health programs for the City of Atlanta.
- Senator Warnock requested funding for the Department of Justice's Regional Information Sharing Systems (RISS), which gives local officers access to federal intelligence and information sharing, and the Bulletproof Vest Program, which provides bulletproof vests to local law enforcement officers.

Community Reinvestment to Address the Root Causes of Crime

- Senator Warnock requested \$410 in funding to implement the First Step Act, which authorized new programs related to residential reentry centers, medication-assisted drug treatment, and educational programming with federal prisons.
- In April 2021, the Senator cosponsored S. 611, the VOCA Fix to Sustain the Crime Victims Fund Act of 2021.
- In July 2021, Senator Warnock cosponsored S. 2477, the FAMILIES Act
- In June 2021, the Senator requested robust funding for the Justice Reinvestment Initiative, which provides funds for states to develop local programs that improve public safety and reduce recidivism.
- Senator Warnock signed an appropriations letter requesting full funding for the Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Program. This program provides state and local governments with the resources necessary to plan and implement initiatives for people with mental illnesses who interact with the criminal justice system.
- The Senator requested \$125 million for the Reintegration of Ex-Offenders Program (ReXO), which provides job training for returning citizens. This has supported the Urban League's work in Atlanta over the last few years.

Gun Safety

- In March 2021, Senator Warnock cosponsored S. 529, the Background Check Expansion Act
- In June 2021, the Senator cosponsored S. 736, Assault Weapons Ban of 2021
- In April 2021, Senator Warnock cosponsored S. 537, the Protecting Domestic Violence and Stalking Victims Act of 2021.

Protecting Minority Communities from Hate Crimes

- Senator Warnock co-led bipartisan legislation directing the Department of Justice to investigate hate crimes against the AAPI community: S. 937, the COVID-19 Hate Crimes Act. This legislation, which passed the Senate and was signed into law, also provides states funding to help individuals of all ethnicities report hate crimes to state and federal officials.
- Senator Warnock co-led a letter requesting \$40 million for the Department of Justice's Community Relations Services, which works with state and local enforcement, and community-based organizations to resolve conflicts, build partnerships, and respond to hate crimes.

Reducing Bias and Discrimination in Policing

- Senator Warnock successfully added language to this year's draft appropriations bill urging increased research for disparities in justice based on racial and socio-economic factors (among others).
- Senator Warnock also joined efforts with his colleagues to direct the Department of Justice to return to consent decrees in order to curb unconstitutional practices in local police and to urge greater oversight over racially biased policing algorithms.
- The Senator requested strong support for the implementation of the Death in Custody Reporting Act which requires states to report to the Department of Justice how many individuals die each year while in police custody or during the course of an arrest.

Community Investments

- Senator Warnock urged the Department of Defense to reform and create greater accountability for programs that transfer excess military equipment to police because our communities should not become war zones.
- The Senator supports efforts to invest in community-based programs that break the cycle of violence.

George Floyd Justice in Policing Act

- While this legislation has not yet been reintroduced in the Senate this Congress, Senator Warnock looks forward to supporting it. Specifically, the Senator supports a number of included programs such as:
 - Requiring federal law enforcement to use body-worn cameras
 - Banning racial profiling
 - Creating a National Police Misconduct registry