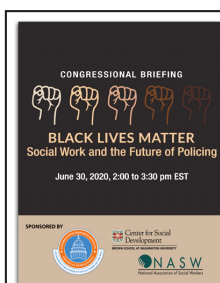# Data-driven policy recommendations to guide the future of policing and achieve racial and economic equity

- **TREAT** trauma among law enforcement officers as untreated trauma symptoms can lead to impulsivity, aggression, and mis-appraisals of threats of violence. Law enforcement officers are exposed to high amounts of traumatic events during the course of their job. Treating trauma among law enforcement officers is vitally important because when combined with structural racism and implicit bias, untreated trauma symptoms can lead to violence rather than de-escalation.

- **ENSURE** federal funding provided to local jurisdictions requires standard law enforcement officer training and education on human behavior, mental health and substance use disorders, the impact of trauma, compassion fatigue and burnout, and training on how structural racism and economic disparities increases contact with law enforcement and can worsen outcomes for persons of color and members of impoverished communities after that contact.

- **CREATE** a robust public health system and invest in alternative first responders – like social workers – to manage the public health problems and interpersonal crises to which law enforcement officers respond that are not an immediate threat to public safety.

- **INVEST** in research on law enforcement innovations and evaluate whether enacted reforms are improving community well-being, public safety, and promoting racial and economic equity. A cross-disciplinary social work and criminal justice approach could be an effective solution to fill research gaps needed to reform the future of social work and policing.

CONGRESSIONAL BRIEFING

BLACK LIVES MATTER
Social Work and the Future of Policing

June 30, 2020, 2:00 to 3:30 pm EST

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Carrie Pettus-Davis, Founding Executive Director of Florida State University College of Social Work's **Institute for Justice Research and Development** recently participated in a Congressional Briefing on Social Work and the Future of Policing where she described these policy recommendations. Pettus-Davis's goal for the briefing was to identify the importance of evidence-driven solutions to police reform that prioritized racial and economic equity.