



September 23, 2016
For Immediate Release
Media Contact: Roslyn Smith
(202) 624-5457

NATIONAL BLACK CAUCUS OF STATE LEGISLATORS (NBCSL) OUTRAGED AT CONTINUED POLICE VIOLENCE AGAINST CITIZENS

September 23, 2016 – Terence Crutcher of Tulsa, OK, and Keith Lamont Scott of Charlotte, NC are two more African American men on the list of victims of excessive police force. Terence Crutcher was shot and killed by police on September 17th after his car stalled on the side of the highway. Hands in the air and walking back to his car, Crutcher, was tased and shot by police, for allegedly “not following commands.” Several days later, Keith Lamont Scott, waiting for his son in his car in a parking lot, was killed by police who were looking to serve a search warrant for another individual. Police allege Scott was armed and posed a threat which is why the open fire, Scott’s family state he was reading book. Violent demonstrations have broken out in Charlotte leading to thousands of dollars in damage and one person critically injured. NBCSL President Senator Catherine Pugh (MD) offered the following statement:

“Our thoughts and prayers go out to the families and friends of Terence Crutcher and Keith Lamont Scott. Two months have passed since we lost Alton Sterling in Louisiana and Philando Castile in Minnesota and we still feel the sting of their absence. What can we say as a community that is hurting and looking for answers? How can we convince those whose minds remain unchanged, that there is a problem? Black and brown men and women are unfairly, disproportionately, and dangerously profiled by the police every day. As a result, we walk the streets in fear wondering ‘Will I be next if I have car trouble?’ Even the highest court in the state of Massachusetts has determined that because of unfair targeting, Black men have a reason to avoid interactions with the police. We call on our Attorney General, Loretta Lynch to conduct a full investigation of these recent incidences of violence against African American males in an effort to seek justice for their families. The National Black Caucus of State Legislators will continue to speak out against the injustices of police violence and work to end deadly police practices and fatal uses of forces across the nation. As we’ve stated before, there won’t be a one size fits all solution to this problem, but we will end the problem.”

###

About NBCSL

The National Black Caucus of State Legislators (NBCSL) is composed of nearly 700 Black state legislators across 46 states, the District of Columbia, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. Its primary mission is to develop, conduct and promote educational, research and training programs designed to enhance the effectiveness of its members, as they consider legislation and issues of public policy which impact, either directly or indirectly upon "the general welfare" of African American constituents within their respective jurisdictions.

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

Sen. Catherine Pugh (MD)
President

Rep. Gregory Porter (IN)
President-Elect

Rep. Gilda Cobb-Hunter (SC)
Vice President

Rep. Alan Williams (FL)
Secretary

Rep. Laura V. Hall (AL)
Financial Secretary

Sen. Hillman Terome Frazier (MS)
Parliamentarian

Rep. Dee Dawkins-Haigler (GA)
Chaplain

REGIONAL CHAIRS

Rep. Ernest Hewett (CT)
Chair, Region I

Rep. Nick Perry (NY)
Chair, Region II

Del. Nathaniel T. Oaks (MD)
Chair, Region III

Rep. Karen Camper (TN)
Chair, Region IV

Rep. John R.C. King (SC)
Chair, Region V

Rep. Mia Jones (FL)
Chair, Region VI

Rep. Juandalynn Givan (AL)
Chair, Region VII

Sen. Jeffrey Hayden (MN)
Chair, Region VIII

Sen. Lena Taylor (WI)
Chair, Region IX

Sen. Regina Barrow (LA)
Chair, Region X

Rep. Karla May (MO)
Chair, Region XI

Rep. Jovan Melton (CO)
Chair, Region XII

Rep. Barbara W. Ballard (KS)
Ex-Officio Member

Rep. Calvin Smyre (GA)
Ex-Officio Member

Rep. Mary Coleman (MS)
Ex-Officio Member

Roslyn Smith
Executive Director