

Independent Prosecutor Bill S.2469/A.1115

Nationally police shootings have raised concerns and serious questions regarding transparency. The public's current perception of impropriety is warranted given the conflict of interest that exists between police and prosecutors. New Jersey criminal justice reform advocates seek to be proactive in creating trusts between the law enforcement and the community.

S2469 seeks to eliminate the perception of impropriety between police and prosecutors. The bill mandates that the Attorney General appoints an independent state prosecutor to oversee the investigation and present evidence to a grand jury anytime an individual is killed during an encounter with law enforcement or in custody. It also requires that the grand jury proceeding, and any prosecution that follows, take place in a county outside the one where the incident took place. This bill helps remove any bias from these events.

The bill seeks to create greater faith in law enforcement, by removing the conflict of interests when local prosecutors handle investigations. While New Jersey is among the lowest in the nation for police involved shootings, New Jersey police excessively stop and arrest people of color and is amongst the least likely states to investigate brutality complaints against police. New Jersey also leads the nation in disproportionately incarcerating Blacks and Latinos. This pressure on communities of color from law enforcement is a recipe for disaster. We do not want to be the next Ferguson or Baltimore!

Where We Are in the Process in New Jersey?

First, we built a broad coalition of faith and civil rights leaders to push bill S.2469.

Next, we organized and helped S.2469 pass in the Senate.

Now, we need to get A.1115 through the Assembly Appropriations Committee then to the full Assembly for vote.

What Can I Do to Help?

1. Contact your Assembly Person and ask them to support A1115 sponsored by Assemblypersons SHEILA Y. OLIVER, HERB CONAWAY, JR., CLEOPATRA G. TUCKER SHAVONDA E. SUMTER, JAMEL C. HOLLEY.
2. Go to our website and sign on to support The bill on Independent Prosecutors.
3. Go to our website and join our email list to receive Action Alerts.
4. Forward this to everyone in your network.
5. Help spread the word on social media:

On Twitter – tweet this post: We Demand #independentprosecutors in New Jersey’s #criminaljustice system. NJ Assembly VOTE YES on #A1115

On Facebook – share this status on Facebook We Demand #independentprosecutors in New Jersey’s #criminaljustice system. NJ Assembly VOTE YES on #A1115 take the conflict of interests out of police shootings resulting in death!

Spread the word to everyone in your network so we can continue to build the momentum!

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