

RELEASE: NH House Democrats Exclaim That Black Lives Matter

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PRESS RELEASE

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NH HOUSE DEMOCRATS EXCLAIM THAT BLACK LIVES MATTER

In response to the brutal murder of George Floyd and the subsequent nationwide protests, **House Majority Leader Doug Ley (D-Jaffrey)** released the following statement:

“Last week, the country witnessed a police officer strangle George Floyd as he lay pinned to the ground in handcuffs. Again, cries for justice have resounded across our nation, around the world, and loudly here at home in New Hampshire. In the last month alone, there have been several highly publicized acts of violence and discrimination against black Americans. Breonna Taylor, a black woman killed while sleeping in her own home; Ahmaud Arbery, a black man killed while on a run; Tony McDade, a black trans man killed by police; Christian Cooper, a black man targeted while birdwatching; and George Floyd, a black man killed by law enforcement while in their custody. Of course these events are in addition to the horrific loss of black life and racial profiling that goes unreported and unheard.

Last weekend in Manchester and communities throughout New Hampshire, thousands of Granite Staters gathered in peaceful support of Black Lives Matter. In the Live Free or Die state, we know to our core that the antithesis of freedom is the constant threat of violence, harassment, and death, and we know that as long as black Americans continue to be targeted and murdered because of the color of their skin, freedom does not exist for any of us. At the Manchester protest and at others across our nation, we have seen attempts by white supremacist groups to incite violence and these acts should be vehemently condemned.

While I understand statements like this are not enough, we must acknowledge and address the deep-rooted inequality that has permeated our society and the criminal justice system since the birth of this nation. New Hampshire has not been immune to these realities but New Hampshire also has a long history of advocacy for equality. Whether it be the enslaved Granite Staters petitioning for freedom in 1779, the unstinting work of abolitionist and feminist Parker Pillsbury in the 1840s & 1850s, the many sons of the Granite State who gave their lives in the Civil War, or civil rights activist Jonathan Daniels of Keen who in 1965 sacrificed his life so another might live, the Granite State has a proud history of activism on behalf of equality, humanity and justice. These are values intrinsic to our state and who we

are. New Hampshire House Democrats hear you and are committed to standing in protection of black lives.”

XXX

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