



March 30, 2015

Chair Barker and members of the House Judiciary Committee,

My story goes back to the 90's when my brother was stopped and patted down after walking less than a 100ft outside of my home. More recently I came out of my work place after seeing plain-clothes officers walk up and stop on my corner. When I asked them if everything was o.k. their reply was they were just walking. As I looked down the street I see their car parked crooked and facing the wrong way. They proceeded towards a young man of color which they patted down, I could see ask questions and then began chatting with him in a seemingly friendly manner. That same day, my sons asked me what was going on as we arrived home nearly five minutes apart. They asked because when they pulled up, someone was pulled over in front of our house. I came down to see a man of color in a red hat sitting in his vehicle and three officers outside of the car. I could tell that he had been asked to be searched as he got out of the car and was then patted down. His body language spoke of being inconvenienced. When they did complete the search, officers seemed to verbally engage with the citizen who was then free to go. I have eight sons of which my younger three, especially my newest driver we now regularly go over what they need to do when they are stopped by the police. Notice I said when, as it is a guarantee that due to the color of their skin they will be stopped. I certainly never received such training from my parents, nor did my older children receive from me. If we don't look at this issue and deal with the prejudices and mindsets that are now fueled with power we will continue to propagate broken and traumatized communities. Have you ever trained or do you think you will train your child/children on what to do in the event of a police stop?