

March , 2016

### **Judiciary Non-Civil Committee Members**

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Dear Senators,

We, the people of Georgia, are requesting that you abide by the Georgia and U.S. Constitutions as your oath of office requires and not pass House Bill 941 in the Senate Judiciary Non-Civil Committee. This bill contains a variety of double standards that are in direct conflict with the clear, plain text of the Equal Protection Clauses in both the Georgia and U.S. Constitutions.

At least **171 Georgians have been killed by law enforcement none of whom were prosecuted under the law** based on a landmark October, 2015 [in-depth study](#) produced by the Atlanta Journal Constitution (AJC) in their [Over the Line](#) investigative report series. Many of those Georgians killed had no criminal record, were unarmed, were shot in the back and/or were murdered after officers broke into their homes. Passage of this bill containing more double standards for law enforcement will prevent even more victims from ever getting justice and make this trend even worse.

The bill objective stated by the authors is to “dial back” special privileges that Georgia Peace Officers receive at grand jury hearings. If true, that can be accomplished simply by modifying that special privilege clause O.C.G.A. 17-7-52. Instead, this bill proposes to implement a variety of **new double standards** in different code sections **that subvert the current grand jury process**. It also **retains the existing double standards** that would likely be found **unconstitutional** if challenged in court. The details are explained in these articles that have already been Emailed to you:

[Police, Sheriffs, D.A. Groups Back Unconstitutional Bill to Shield Officers from Criminal Charges](#)

[HB941 Double Standard of Justice Refutes Authors' Claims](#)

All Georgia citizens are entitled to the same protections as our Constitutions clearly explain. All must be held accountable to an equal standard of justice.

Thank you,