

Vote YES on House Resolution 669 (M. Davis)



REPORTING OF FEDERAL DATA ON "OFFICER-ON-CIVILIAN" DEATHS TO STATE OFFICIALS – HR 669

House Resolution 669 urges state and local law enforcement agencies to share certain federal data with Illinois officials once a year, imposes NO substantial additional administrative costs, and helps Illinois to qualify for federal criminal justice dollars.

- ◆ **HR 669's Requirements:** HR 669 would require state and local law enforcement agencies to **report annually to the General Assembly and the Governor:**

- (1) total number of civilians killed by police officers;
- (2) race/ethnicity of the officer;
- (3) race/ethnicity, gender, and age of the victim; and
- (4) method by which the victim was killed.

- ◆ **Data is Already Collected & Reported:** **Much of this data is already being collected** by local agencies and **reported** by the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority (ICJIA) **in pursuit of federal "Truth-in-Sentencing" grants**, 42 U.S.C. § 13704.

"To be eligible to receive a grant award under [the Deaths in Custody Reporting Act of 2000], a State shall . . . follow guidelines . . . in reporting, on a quarterly basis, information regarding the death of any person who is in the process of arrest, is en route to be incarcerated, or is incarcerated at a municipal or county jail, State prison, or other local or State correctional facility (including any juvenile facility) that, at a minimum, includes –

- (A) the name, gender, race, ethnicity, and age of the deceased;
- (B) the date, time, and location of death; and
- (C) a brief description of the circumstances surrounding the death."

42 U.S.C. § 13704(2)(a)(2).

- ◆ **Highest Death Rate in the Midwest:** The U.S. Department of Justice has analyzed the data submitted between 2003 and 2005 and released one report, which shows that **Illinois has the highest "officer-on-civilian" death rate in the Midwest (80 deaths, 55 of which were self-reported homicides)**. The range for total deaths from other Midwestern states during this same timeframe ranged from 5 (South Dakota) to 71 (Ohio).
- ◆ **More Nuanced Data Fosters Community Policing:** The way the federal data is currently reported does not allow one to determine which deaths were deemed justified. Moreover, there is no way to tell which local law enforcement agencies have clean records. HR 669 would give Illinois officials more nuanced data and help local communities to dispel myths of rampant "officer-on-civilian" killings and foster community policing efforts.

For further information contact:

Mary Dixon, ACLU of IL Legislative Director, at 815-483-1990, -or-
Jim Ferg-Cadima, ACLU of IL Legislative Counsel, at 312-925-9394

(Feb. 2008)