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**It is Time for America to Adopt a National Use of Force Standard**  
*California's Model Provides a Foundation that Could Help Inform the Basis for Change Nationwide*

**Sacramento, CA** – As the nation reels in response to the death of yet another unarmed black man while in police custody, we share the devastation and downright anger of the protesters who are peacefully assembling across the country. As peace officers, our role is to serve and protect – a responsibility that we cannot fulfill without the trust of the communities we have sworn an oath to. When that trust is broken by officers whose actions are inconsistent with the missions and goals of our profession, we too are outraged. We have an opportunity right now, to channel the incredible energy of this moment into action.

“George Floyd was a man in distress and crying out for help, and his death should not have happened,” said [Brian Marvel, President of the Peace Officers Research Association of California \(PORAC\)](#). “It is time for America to adopt a national use of force standard, to mandate that all peace officers have a duty to intercede, to raise the bar for use of force training standards for all peace officers in every city and state across this country. We started this process in California by passing [SB 230](#) and [AB 392](#), and now we need to make these changes across the nation.”

As leaders in California law enforcement, we spent more than a year surveying all of the proven best practices from around the country, collecting input from legislators, the American Civil Liberties Union, our Attorney General, diverse experts, and impacted stakeholders from throughout the state. We incorporated everything we heard and everything we learned into California's new use of force laws, SB 230 and AB 392, including:

- Redefining lethal force by a peace officer as only justifiable when necessary in defense of human life.
- Mandating every California law enforcement officer to receive the most robust training in the nation strictly designed to minimize the use of force.
- Requiring every law enforcement officer to adhere to specific, publicly available guidelines for when they are authorized to use force.
- Establishing specific policies across all law enforcement departments requiring de-escalation, an officer's duty to intercede, rendering medical aid, proportional use of force and more.
- Setting forth and standardizing detailed requirements for reporting all instances when force is used.
- Specifying that use of force policies and training are considered in legal proceedings.

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