



Jackson-based Groups Oppose Capitol Police, Expansion Bill

January 31, 2023

Our coalition of Jackson organizations and residents is adamantly opposed to House Bill 1020. This bill is another unprecedented attempt to strip power away from the City of Jackson. We have opposed the state's other attempts to undermine Jackson's leadership during the attempt to take over the Jackson airport, school system, and water system. We remain opposed. Our message to the state is simple: We support Black Leadership!

Additionally, we are opposed to the existence of Capitol Police, who have shot and/or killed several unarmed Black people over the past year. We are also opposed to the section in HB 1020 that would empower a slate of all-white Mississippi state officials to appoint unelected judges and unelected prosecutors in majority-Black Hinds County. The Sheriff's duties of the new CCID judicial system would be carried out by the unelected Chief of the Capitol Police.

Our fact sheet points out the many other details in this bill that are problematic. We would also like to make clear that we support programs that provide assistance to families in trauma. This is the only way that we can adequately deal with our crime and mental health issues in Jackson. Some examples of these programs are:

1. Credible messenger programs that enable trained community members to de-escalate community conflicts that lead to violence;
2. More counselors, social workers, and mental health specialists in schools and communities;
3. More resources for recreation and social programs for youth that keep them engaged in healthy activities;
4. Violence interruption programs that de-escalate conflicts before violent episodes occur in neighborhoods.

All of these programs are evidence-based ways to prevent crime and increase social outcomes. They are not politically motivated, nor are they racially motivated attempts to continue the oppression of People of Color.

Peoples Advocacy Institute
Mississippi Poor Peoples Campaign
Mississippi Prison Reform Coalition
Jackson NAACP
One Voice
Clergy for Prison Reform

For more information visit: jxnpeoplesassembly.org