

Congressman G. K. Butterfield (NC-01) remarks at the memorial service of George Floyd, June 6, 2020:

“I extend condolences to this beautiful family on behalf of the 55 men and women of the Congressional Black Caucus led by Congresswoman Karen Bass of California. I also extend condolences on behalf of Speaker Nancy Pelosi and the 235 members of the House Democratic Caucus. Your pain is our pain.”

“This is a moment in history. We have seen images on the television screen over the last few days that clearly demonstrate that America is grieving. Not just black America; America is grieving. Not a single person has stepped forward and said that 8 min 46 seconds was justified. It was a police murder by any definition.”

“You should know that the Congressional Black Caucus has been working for years on the issue of police accountability. We have worked tirelessly on issues of systemic racism; issues of poverty and education and voting rights. The congressional record will show that we made modest progress in a few of these areas. But far from where this Nation should be.”

“Over the past ten days, the Congressional Black Caucus has engaged in extensive meetings with the Democratic leadership on the importance of decisive and swift legislative action to end the pervasiveness of police misconduct. Speaker Pelosi authorized the Congressional Black Caucus to develop the first draft of a legislative response to this “police” murder and other “police” murders that we all know so painfully well.”

“On Monday, Democrats; [black, white, brown and native] will stand on the steps of the United States Capitol and unveil our legislation. We will march into the Capitol to introduce this legislation. On Wednesday, the Committee on the Judiciary will conduct a hearing on our bill and prepare the legislation for a floor vote by the end of June.”

“In his remarks to the House Democratic Caucus on Friday, Congressman John Lewis said, “The winds of change are blowing; great change is coming.””

“To the Floyd family; to America; change is coming because millions of people of good will (of all races) are in the public square demanding change and demanding it now. You should have some degree of comfort knowing that the death of your beloved George Floyd will be the catalyst that will bring much needed reform to our system of criminal justice.”

“And so, we are ready to usher in a new era of truth and justice and end this pandemic of racism in America. Let us stand together. Let us continue to speak truth to power. And let us get ready to elect new leadership in this country who will take this country to a better place in the sight of Almighty God. Thank you.””