

NAACP
Iowa-Nebraska State Conference and
Des Moines Branch

Areas of Concern
Warranting Consideration for Legislative and Executive Action
(List Not Prioritized)

1. Review and narrowing of mandatory minimum sentences and what crimes “count” for purposes of mandatory minimums--
 - a. Threat of mandatory minimum as a powerful tool for prosecutors to secure guilty pleas;
 - b. Gross racial disparity in incarceration in Iowa—worst in the Nation--which reportedly will worsen in years ahead;
2. Racial profiling—legislation to prohibit, for example, Nebraska’s legislation, with additions, for example, requiring police to use body cameras and requiring police stopping a driver to give the driver a card explaining the right to refuse consent to a police officer’s request to search the car;
3. Restoration of the franchise for persons convicted of felonies who have completed their sentences;
4. Minority Impact Statement legislation—putting more teeth in the Iowa legislation;
5. Anti-Wage Theft Legislation
 - a. Anti-Wage Theft Legislation passed the Iowa Senate;
 - b. University of Iowa study reports it’s a \$600 million a year issue in Iowa;
 - c. Concerned Citizens of Iowa asked the NAACP to support);
6. Police Not Living in the Municipality in which They Serve as Police Officers;
7. The CASP Report and Recommendations—specific issues on which to support Court Study recommendations, such as juvenile funding and record-keeping;
8. Assessment of types of conduct leading to forfeiture of a driver’s license, for example, nonpayment of child support, as it too frequently makes it impossible for someone to remain employed;
9. “Ban-the-Box” legislation;
10. Review of drug offenses, for example, decriminalization of marijuana possession or personal use;
11. Legislation providing that juvenile records are *not* “public records;”
12. Court fees, fines, and surcharges--Address impact of racially disparate arrests and convictions or pleas, resulting in fees, fines, and surcharges;
13. Civil forfeiture practice;
14. Housing--Legislation affecting homes, for example, tax credits for solar panels or authorization of “tiny homes.”

~~December 6, 2019~~