

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ICYMI:

***Biden for President* Holds Arizona Roundtable on Joe Biden’s “Lift Every Voice” Plan for Black America**

Today, *Biden for President* held a roundtable discussion about Joe Biden’s [“Lift Every Voice” Plan for Black America](#). Arizona State Representatives Reginald Bolding and Dr. Geraldine Peten, Arizona Democratic Party Vice Chair Garrick McFadden, Arizona Democratic Party African American Caucus Chair Connie DeLarge, Reverend Reginald D. Walton and *Biden for President* National African American Engagement Director Trey Baker joined the call.

“We know that what happened to George Floyd is not something that's out of the ordinary,” said **Representative Reginald Bolding**. “We've all seen the videos. We've all watched the news cycle. And we need a leader that's going to be willing to stand up and take action, a leader that's going to propose strong solutions, and that's not only going to be reactive, but proactive because that's how you get to a position and a place where we can start to change systemic issues that have taken place in this country ... It's one thing to react to something that you've seen that you know, is an issue or a problem that has happened, but it's a whole other thing to say, ‘these are proactive solutions that I'm going to put in place to try to prevent a cycle that has historically hurt African American communities.’”

“I know that you cannot change anything unless you acknowledge and recognize that it is a problem,” said **Representative Dr. Geraldine Peten**. “You cannot improve the future without recognizing what has happened in the past ... And you know, it's commendable that Biden recognizes those disparities. He has a plan to be proactive to correct those. And we certainly look forward to supporting him in doing that. So we need to eliminate all of the disparities and have equality for all.”

“When I read the Lift Every Voice plan by Joe Biden, a lot of things came up that would benefit the Black community,” said **Arizona Democratic Party Vice Chair Garrick McFadden**. “Eighty percent of all Black households, the woman is the primary breadwinner and Joe Biden's commitment to sign the Paycheck Fairness Act, which will cause employers to have to pay Black women who get paid 68 cents for every dollar a white man earns to close that gap. His commitment to strengthen the ACA, lowered the rate of black people who were uninsured by 50%.”

"We need a leader that has understanding and compassion, you know, someone that people can trust, because right now, most people, especially people of color, do not trust our current president," said **Arizona Democratic Party African American Caucus Chair Connie DeLarge**. "And he is so fraught on trying to keep people apart than trying to bring us together. And we need to be brought together because, you know police killings of these black men did not just happen, these killings have been happening for a very long time, way past even before I was born."

"Leadership is really counting on relationships, and we've seen Vice President Biden have relationships in particular with the African American community," said **Reverend Reginald D. Walton**. "It's telling that his relationship with Jim Clyburn and others have really stood strong, stood the test of time over the years ... the unifier in chief would be one who really stands on those relationships and doesn't come in and try to tear people apart, but rather not only gives words, but gives their compassion, gives their heart and listens, and actually hears the voices of the people. The plan that he has put forth is one of the first steps in making sure that people know that his heart is where his words are."

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