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**Police Can Help Curb Use of Force with “8 Can’t Wait” Policies**

**TALLAHASSEE, Fla.** — A new study by the LeRoy Collins Institute has identified a number of significant methods that can help curb violence by deterring the use of force during police and civilian interactions, including de-escalation tactics and a continuum of force alternatives. The report, *A Review of Use of Force Policies in Florida and Perspectives of their Effectiveness*, details which of the “8 Can’t Wait” policies are effective in helping to stop police violence.

[8 Can’t Wait](#) is an initiative aimed at stopping police violence by recommending that law enforcement agencies adopt eight new policies, including a ban on chokeholds, warnings before use of a deadly weapon, and a ban on shooting at moving vehicles. The initiative is a project by Campaign Zero, a police reform campaign launched in 2015.

“This report shows us that three of these policies in particular, when implemented correctly, are effective in reducing excessive force,” said LeRoy Collins Institute Director Lonna Atkeson. “In addition, transparency, relationship building, and more training for officers will be important as we move forward with implementing these policies.”

The report found that more transparency and standardization will be needed for use-of-force data to be broadly accessible to the public. In discussions with law enforcement authorities, researchers found that most 8 Can’t Wait policies were prefaced by language about various policies applying “when feasible,” meaning implementation is conditional regarding de-escalation tactics like warnings before shootings and bans on chokeholds or shooting at moving vehicles.

Renowned civil rights and personal injury attorney Ben Crump called the report important and said adoption of the policies by law enforcement would save lives and help transform the relationships between law enforcement and the communities they police.

“We are far overdue to adopt common sense policies that de-escalate encounters with police, like banning chokeholds and shouting warnings before using a deadly weapon,” Crump said. “How many credible, independent voices need to make the case for these basic reforms before they are widely adopted by law enforcement agencies?”

The eight tactics called for by the 8 Can't Wait are:

1. Require officers to de-escalate situations, when possible, before using force.
2. Use a force continuum or matrix that defines/limits the types of force and specific weapons that can be used to respond to specific levels of resistance.
3. Restrict chokeholds and strangleholds (including carotid restraints) to situations where deadly force is authorized or prohibit them altogether.
4. Require officers to give a verbal warning, when possible, before using deadly force.
5. Prohibit officers from shooting at people in moving vehicles unless the person poses a deadly threat by means other than the vehicle (for example, shooting at people from the vehicle).
6. Require officers to exhaust all other reasonable alternatives before resorting to using deadly force.
7. Require officers to intervene to stop another officer from using excessive force.
8. Require officers to report both uses of force and threats/attempts of force (for example, reporting instances where an officer intentionally points a firearm at a civilian)

Nearly one-third of police agencies have adopted all eight policies and over 90% have adopted five or more. The study finds that three 8 Can't Wait policies from above are associated with a decrease in use of force reports including requiring de-escalation, exhausting all reasonable alternatives, and the continuum of force matrix.

Policy researchers split their recommendations into two sections: local-level and state-level changes that can be implemented. Among other actions at the local level, researchers recommend that police work hard to improve communication with communities of color and build formalized connections in the community. At the state level, legislators were advised by researchers to implement laws mandating comprehensive data tracking and reporting.

The full report can be found [here](#), and the executive summary is linked [here](#).

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### **About the LeRoy Collins Institute**

Established in 1988, the LeRoy Collins Institute is a nonpartisan, statewide policy organization that studies and promotes creative solutions to key private and public issues facing the people of Florida and the nation. The Institute, located in Tallahassee at Florida State University, is affiliated and works in collaboration with the State University System of Florida. Named in honor of former Florida Governor LeRoy Collins, the Institute is governed by a distinguished board of directors, chaired by Lester Abberger. Other board members include executives, local elected officials, and other professionals from throughout the state.