

07/17/2020

Honorable Aaron Michlewitz  
Committee on Ways and Means  
State House Room  
Boston, MA 02133

Honorable Claire Cronin  
Committee on Judiciary  
243 State House Room 136  
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Chairman Michlewitz and Chairwoman Cronin:

My name is Nicholas Gasperini. I am a lifelong Massachusetts resident. I am a police officer in Western Massachusetts for the last 20 years. I would consider myself as a liberal democrat and have voted as such my whole life, as well as donated funds to Democratic candidates through ActBlue.

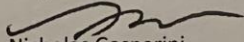
We all know that there are some positive changes that are coming in the field of law enforcement. Most police officers I know encourage these changes. However, I have heard concerns from my fellow officer's and I wanted to voice my concern about the speed of the Act to Reform Police Standards and some of the proposals in S2820. I believe some of these proposals, while well intentioned, will have a severe negative impact on law enforcement professionals, as well as, future recruitment of new police officers.

Take the time to listen to the professionals in the field, whether they be Law Enforcement Use of Force Instructors, criminal justice professors, District Attorneys, defense attorneys, social workers and police officers have had little to no input into this process. I am concerned that lawmakers may not understand the job and dynamic calls officers handle on a shift. Have any lawmakers conducted a "ride-a-long" with any police departments? Have any lawmakers asked the MPTC to try out the "FATS" machine, which is an interactive use of force scenario-based training system? I feel this would give lawmakers a unique prospective about the job.

I am concerned about the make up of the Board. It is imperative that the members of this board have some knowledge about policing, the training and experience. Again, I would suggest the makeup of the Board be in fields that have experience with policing such as judges, professors, District Attorneys, defense attorneys, probation officers, social workers. To do otherwise would be to abandon your Massachusetts law enforcement officers.

My large family and those family members of other police officers in Massachusetts will not forget when it comes time to vote during elections, the speed, the disregard of the input of law enforcement members that members had.

Respectfully,



Nicholas Gasperini