

Dear Judiciary and Ways and Means Committees,

My name is Mollie Socha and I am a resident of Spencer, MA. My fiancé, Anthony Lombardozi, has been an officer with the Worcester Police Department since April 2017. There is nothing my fiancé loves more than to protect and serve the citizens of Worcester. He is an officer that has only called out of work twice in his whole three year span on the job and is always on time and ready to help protect the people of Worcester. Before he became a law enforcement officer, he served our country as a Marine for four years, completing tours in Afghanistan and Okinawa. He loves America more than anything and puts his life on the line everyday to protect our country and the people living here.

While he has only been on the department for three short years, he has had his experience with dangerous close calls. During his first month on the job, my fiancé was conducting a routine traffic stop. During this stop, the driver had a suspended license and decided to take off. This speeding away resulted in my fiancé having his foot run over. Even after having his foot run over, my fiancé continued to chase after and arrest the driver. He wanted to protect the community and get that dangerous driver off of the street, so that he wouldn't be able to hurt anyone else. My fiancé put himself and his well-being last to do so.

While my fiancé has faced many dangerous situations, he has also been there to save many citizens of Worcester. These actions include and are not limited to: rushing into burning buildings to help occupants out, performing CPR, helping domestic violence victims get the resources they need to get away from their abusers and recovering illegal drugs and guns off of the street.

One notable situation occurred last year while my fiancé was on a detail. While directing traffic on route 20, a car accident occurred where a man drove into a concrete pillar that was being moved by the road crews. My fiancé was alerted of the crash and rushed to the scene with his medical supplies. Upon getting to the car, he saw a man bleeding out from both head and neck trauma. Without a second thought, he quickly applied QuickClot and pressure to the severe neck wound, slowing the bleeding down tremendously. According to the doctors who worked on this man at the hospital, my fiancé's actions saved this man's life. Without my fiancé administering the medical aid he was trained to give, that man would have died. That man later reached out to my fiancé to thank him for saving his life and how appreciative he and his family was for him. My fiancé expected no recognition or special treatment and was very simply "just doing his job".

I live in a terrible reality, where I am petrified every day that the man that I love and am building a life with, won't come on the next morning. However, no matter how dangerous the situation, he remains resilient and continues to put on that badge and go out to protect people; some who have a complete disregard for his life. To say I worry for him and his safety would be the understatement of the year. I pray every night that when he leaves me, I'll get to see him again that

next morning. I shouldn't have to wonder if that kiss will be our last or what our last words to each other would have been.

I'm afraid that if the bill passes as it is written now, he will not be able to continue to protect and serve the city he loves, because the risk of his life and everything he has worked so hard for would be too high. However, the citizens of Worcester will ultimately be the ones to suffer. This bill as it is written now destroys protections that police officers need in order to do their job properly. I am asking that you eliminate limiting qualified immunity for the officers of Massachusetts as it is written in this current bill. All of first responders in Massachusetts deserve to have qualified immunity if their actions do not violate a clearly established law. I think they have earned that right, as their jobs require them to make split seconds decisions that can impact both their own safety and the safety of those they serve to protect. I also ask that you include law enforcement personnel on the POSAC board being proposed within this bill. This will allow a member who has on the job experience to offer valuable insight that someone who has never worked in law enforcement cannot offer.

I request these issues are carefully reviewed, especially due to of the uptick in crime that has occurred over the past few weeks in Worcester. If this police reform bill passes as is into law, crime will run rampant and will resemble what is happening in Chicago, New York City, Atlanta, etc, due to the fact that police officers will have their hands tied and will not be able to do their job properly.

I love my fiancé and the amazing law enforcement officer that he is. He is my hero. His courage, sacrifice and commitment to his city is what makes him stand apart from the rest. I fear that if this bill passes as it is currently written, he will have to walk away from a job that he loves, because it isn't worth the sacrifice of his life and everything that he has worked so hard for. I pray that sound judgment and careful consideration be taken before this bill gets moved along any further. Not only for the lives of law enforcement families, but for the greater good of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Thank you,

Mollie Socha  
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