

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to express that as a Massachusetts resident, a wife of a police officer, and a town employee who would be effected by portions of this bill, I do not support a "Bill to reform police standards and shift resources to build a more equitable, fair and just commonwealth that values Black lives and communities of color".

Although I believe there is always room for changes that bring improvement to our people and communities, I do not believe those changes occur by targeting life saving professions in such a drastic way. This bill and its future implications have not been thoroughly considered by the government leaders of the Commonwealth.

I have worked side by side with law enforcement officers, fire fighters, EMT's and paramedics, I know many nurses, teachers, and other town employees who will undoubtedly be effected by portions of this bill. In my eight years of employment I have seen officers respond to car accidents, unattended deaths, suicides, drunk driving accidents where people were hurt. I have seen officers arrest people they have known since childhood, I have seen officers offer support to victims, I have seen officers cry, I have seen them laugh, I have seen them numb from the pain that people cause. I have also seen all of these officers return to work day in and day out, with the ultimate goal of making a difference, protecting their residents, and everyday they are willing to put their lives on the line for a perfect stranger.

As a wife of an officer I have seen what the job can do, it hurts me to think that my loving, funny, give the shirt off his back husband is hated by so many across this country simply because he wears a uniform. It hurts me more to think that those we voted into office are willing to pass such a radical bill that in my opinion supports a political movement rather than supporting every person in this state regardless of color, economic status and profession.

There is a way to support Black lives and communities of color, while still supporting first responder's, taking funding from one and giving it to another is not the right way, opening up good people to frivolous personal law suits is not the right way. I would like to think as a society we want equality, we want each person to feel safe at home, at work, and walking through their neighborhoods. Please remember, there are bad people, there are bad police officers, bad fire fighters, bad nurses, bad teachers, bad priests, bad white, black, brown people, but there are also GOOD people and there are far more good people than bad, this bill simply is punishment to the good people, bad people do not care about law, if they did, we wouldn't need police. Please consider the good people, who will now be more afraid than ever to do their jobs effectively which will undoubtedly put their lives and the safety of their communities at higher risk.

As a resident, a wife, and a good person, I urge you to reconsider this bill, work with both sides to find a solution to create equality and protect all good people in this state.

Sincerely,
Megan Sousa

Rowley, MA