

Dear Mr. Speaker, or whom it may concern:

I write this letter to inform you of my opposition of bill S2820. I would have been proud to do this in person but I understand the covid-19 restrictions. As a proud member of law enforcement I see this bill being the unofficial kiss of death for police work in Massachusetts. As a Marine serving in Iraq and Afghanistan, I would have given my life for my country. Today, wearing the blue uniform and a badge, I would give my life in the streets of Massachusetts for a black family, black man, black woman, or black child. While I agree with most of the points made in the bill, I do not support the loss of qualified immunity amongst police officers. I support everything the bill has put out in regard to chokeholds, public complaints, recertification, and racism education.

The loss of qualified immunity means stripping every police officer of the confidence to do their job. I have been a police officer for close to seven years without a single complaint against me. My goal is to keep it that way. Yet, most people know it's nearly impossible to go in entire career as a police officer without a complaint. You are dealing with people in some of the worst moments of their life, and it is extremely difficult to get every person you encounter to agree with you.

I have a military background, bachelor's degree, and master's degree. I am published author, historian, and President of a non-profit. I do not need this job as a cop, I want this job. The removal of qualified immunity will attract a new wave of police officers who come from empty backgrounds. These police officers will not care if they're sued personally, because they will be power-hungry bullies, who finally earned a badge with nothing to lose. They will finally

be in a position where they get to tell people what to do, and that's all that matters in life to someone like that. This is the new wave of police officers you will get with this current police reform bill.

Police Officers now, who love their job, with under 10 years of experience, are seeking other employment options in this state. Most of us have college degrees, master's degrees, and other line of lines of work outside the police force. The next officers who would like to take this job will be from a background where they could not do anything else. This is not the type a police officer I want walking the streets. The police officers now who do their job for such a low salary, but they do it because they love it; this will no longer be the case as more of their work rights are taken or taken away.

The country's law enforcement officers are already suffering from the "Ferguson Effect." (2015). Removal of qualified immunity will make police officers hesitant to do their jobs, refrain from proactive police work, or be motivated to solve crimes. Class examples are occurring at this very moment in Chicago, NYC, and Atlanta, with scores of people dead.

I am asking you to start a national precedence that police reform is needed, but you will not make police officers vulnerable while doing so. We need to restore law and order in our country state by state, and without a divisive President. I have faith in our State Representatives that they can pass an excellent police reform bill, without the sacrifice of qualified immunity, as it was not originally on the table for discussion until last minute.

Respectfully,

Officer Andrew Biggio

Winthrop Police Dept

Founder, Boston's Wounded Vet Run

Author, "The Rifle"

U.S. Marine Corps 2006-2012