



## TOWN OF SHREWSBURY

KEVIN E. ANDERSON  
Chief of Police

DEPARTMENT OF POLICE

TEL. 508-841-8577  
FAX 508-841-8494

106 MAPLE AVENUE  
SHREWSBURY, MA 01545-2859

Re: Concerns to Senate 2820 as Amended

July, 17, 2020

Dear Chair Aaron Michlewitz and Chair Claire Cronin please accept the following testimony with regard to SB2820 - An Act to reform police standards and shift resources to build a more equitable, fair and just commonwealth that values Black lives and communities of color.

I would first like to advise you both that I am in full support and agreement with the letter submitted to you by Mass Chiefs President Jeff Farnsworth and Major City Police Chief President Brian Keyes.

I wanted to take a moment to specifically provide my view point as it relates to qualified immunity. The Mass Chiefs letter explains in more detail how it affects law enforcement but I want to provide my concerns as a police chief.

I believe that if passed, we may see an increase in frivolous law suits. I also believe proactive policing will be diminished as officers will be fearful to perform certain job related tasks.

Nationally, recruiting qualified candidates is challenging. Locally, some agencies are having issues now with recruitment of qualified candidates.

If the Senate version passes as written, I believe you will see a decline in individuals choosing law enforcement as their chosen profession. Additionally it will be challenging retaining the qualified law enforcement professionals we currently have.

I appreciate the opportunity to provide my input on this matter and want you to know we realize positive change needs to take place. I am offering to assist in any discussion to ensure we provide public safety services that are of the highest quality, while unbiased; for all that we are honored to serve.

Respectfully,

Kevin E. Anderson, Chief of Police