



MASSACHUSETTS & NORTHERN NEW ENGLAND LABORERS' DISTRICT COUNCIL

OF THE LABORERS' INTERNATIONAL UNION OF NORTH AMERICA, AFL-CIO

July 16, 2020

Aaron Michlewicz
Chair, House Ways and Means Committee

Claire Cronin
Chair, Joint committee on the Judiciary

State House
24 Beacon Street
Boston, MA. 02104
Dear Mr. and Madame Chairs,

The Massachusetts and Northern New England Laborers Union is submitting written testimony in the matter before you regarding;

Senate Bill 2820 "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"

Thank you for holding a hearing on this bill and seeking input from stakeholders.

We represent six thousand (6000) Public employees throughout the Commonwealth, our members are employed, both on city and school payrolls in the area of healthcare, law enforcement, clerical, custodians, maintenance and DPW's, many of these members are African-American and minority employees, whom may be impacted by this.

We are in support of the core principals contained in this legislation: the promotion of diversity, bans on chokeholds and excessive force, standardized training of procedures and protocols, and an independent body including law enforcement experts to oversee accreditation and certification.

My understanding is the senate took parts of several other bills and took positive pieces of those bills and rolled them into Senate Bill 2820 without holding any hearings on the matter, although the intent to do something fair and equitable without a hearing and no input from stakeholders, who will be affected by this Legislation, is neither fair nor just. Although this bill addresses law enforcement, it ultimately, will have an effect on all public employees.

We understand the intent of the bill but, what needs to be addressed is the scope and duties of these jobs, without a vision and/or plan of what this bill wants to accomplish will lead to unintended consequences and frivolous lawsuits. And in that regard there are no winners only losers. That is why this hearing is important with input from stakeholders.

With Warm regards,

Anthony "Tony" Pini
Legislative/Political Director
Massachusetts Laborers Union