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July 17, 2020

Via email to: Testimony.HWMJudiciary@mahouse.gov

Re: Concerns to Senate 2820 as Amended

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”*.

First, let me start by saying, thank you for allowing this testimony to be submitted. The Senate missed an opportunity to draft a bill that had input from the public. I appreciate this opportunity to submit my testimony.

I have been the Chief of Police in the Town of Westford for the last twelve years. Our department is an accredited agency and was the 18th accredited Police Department in the Commonwealth to achieve such a goal.

For the purposes of brevity, I would yield to Chief Brian Kyes, President of the Major City Chiefs, and Chief Jeff Farnworth, President of the Mass Chiefs of Police, who have submitted testimony that captures my concerns and reflects my position with SB28000 as written.

In addition, with respect to Qualified Immunity, the Senate, in their haste to push out a bill and not take testimony, missed a valuable opportunity to receive input from those who are effected. The changes as proposed to Qualified Immunity in SB2800 will have detrimental effects on my department’s ability to retain exceptionally trained, educated and experienced Police Officers. I respectfully submit that Qualified Immunity is essential to ALL public employees and it should not be removed.

Thank you for attention in this matter, and for reaching out to the public for input.

Respectfully Submitted,

Thomas McEnaney
Chief of Police