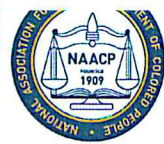


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WORCESTER NAACP
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE



The mission of the NAACP is to ensure the political, educational, social and economic equality of rights of all persons and to eliminate race-based discrimination.

Public Testament in support of S2820 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.

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Thank you to the Massachusetts Senate for passing

The Worcester Branch of the NAACP remains firmly behind the nationwide call for systemic changes to policing, adding the collective statement of our members in the call for Massachusetts House legislators to listen to the voices they hear, see the feet they see in our streets, and take heed of our calls to end the delays and pass S2820.

We are sure you have not only seen the frightening and horrific videos documenting police misconduct across the country, but also seen the data and statistics documenting that Black members of society continue to be disproportionately targeted and treated harshly by the police. While these videos and statistics may be relatively new to some of you, they are far from new to the Black community. And while the types of misconduct and institutional racism may vary between regions, states and police departments our Worcester members carry many of the same fears and trauma as the Black brothers and sisters in Minneapolis, Baltimore, Los Angeles and elsewhere.

For decades we have struggled to survive, for years we have asked and petitioned for change, and now we are in the streets imploring our local, state and federal leaders to make real and substantive changes today.

It is because we have seen incomplete and incremental change in the past that we are asking you today to pass S2820, as is, without delays, without calls for new studies, without excuses.

Crucial to the policing reform we seek is an end to qualified immunity for police officers. As currently defined and practiced it is only a roadblock to police accountability and justice that only exacerbates the wounds being inflicted on the Black community. We stand with our parent organization which strongly supports H.R. 7120, the "George Floyd Justice in Policing Act." which end qualified immunity on the Federal level. Massachusetts should lead in addressing police violence. A watered down bill, that doesn't address qualified immunity, is not what we are asking you as Representatives to pass. We recommend that you follow the recommendation of the Black and Latino Caucus.

We also ask that you support the Justice Reinvestment Trust Fund which would decrease the number of people incarcerated by our state and reinvest the savings into community employment in neighborhoods that have been most impacted by policing and mass incarceration. In particular, we ask you eliminate the \$10 million per-year cap on reinvestment that the Senate imposed.

We support the many other provisions within the bill passed by the senate to reduce the police forces.

Please know our Worcester members are watching, and want to see these changes passed by the Massachusetts House of Representatives every bit as much as member of the Black community are working elsewhere to achieve similar goals to save Black lives. Please stand-up for the Black community today by promptly passing this important legislation.

The Worcester Branch stands in solidarity with the New England Area Conference (NEAC) of the NAACP to raise up Black voices at this important moment in history and do whatever we can to save Black Lives. Your support for this legislation shows that you believe that Black Lives Matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Fred Taylor". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "F" and a stylized "T".

Fred Taylor
First Vice-President,