

From: "Whitehouse, Roby" <RWhitehouse@yarmouth.ma.us>
Date: July 17, 2020 at 10:23:44 AM EDT
Cc: "Chip (rbarrett@westfordma.gov)" <rbarrett@westfordma.gov>
Subject: [External]: Senate Bill 2800 testimony

Chair Cronin and Members of the Committee:

I am writing on behalf of New England Chapter of American Public Works Association, a nonprofit membership organization representing public works professionals in New England. On behalf of our 2,000 members, I am submitting this written testimony to ask the House to preserve qualified immunity for municipal employees under Chapter 258 of the Massachusetts General Laws.

Our members are highway officials, including engineers, and superintendents and road and infrastructure professionals, these first responders work hard to protect public health each and every day. Members of Public Works typically work alongside Police and Fire to provide safe roads for communities, whether there is an accident or act of nature, the teams of employees working in Municipalities are there to keep communities safe.

Unfortunately, despite the best procedures and protocols to ensure safe delivery of services on roadways, accidents can occur. Qualified immunity is an important law that our municipal public works employees work under; they need this important protection to ensure they are not held personally liable if a Civil suit were brought against them for incidents occurring in the course of carrying out their duties.

We respectfully ask you to ensure that the police reform legislation that you pass, not remove qualified immunity for other municipal workers.

Feel free to call me at 978-375-5708

Respectfully,

This message is sent on Behalf of New England American Public Works Association President, Richard "Chip" Barrett PWLF

Highway Superintendent
rbarrett@westfordma.gov
Town of Westford
28 North St.
Westford, Ma. 01886