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The Massachusetts Senate Has Turned Their Backs on Public Employees and Organized Labor

When myself, and the over 12,000 members of the PFFM are called to respond at 4:11AM, it is to handle an emergency. We are either "running into a burning building when everyone is running out" or saving a life on a medical call or motor vehicle crash. We respond no matter what the conditions or what the outcome may be to ourselves. The Senate was called this morning at 4:11AM to respond to an emergency and they let the labor movement down.

The PFFM is confused, disappointed, and concerned with the actions of the Massachusetts Senate as it relates to the process under-taken in the recent social justice and police reform debate. We remain supportive of the core principles 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.

However, by foregoing a public hearing process, not inviting all stakeholders into the discussion, and rushing to pass this bill despite a legislative deadline that can be adjusted, the Massachusetts Senate essentially engaged on an attack directed at public employees and the rights and protections that organized labor has fought for since its inception. The legislation as passed has serious and immediate implications, related to qualified immunity, due process and collective bargaining. This is a dangerous precedent, while perhaps well intentioned; it strikes at the very core of public service.

The PFFM will join our brothers and sisters in the public sector and labor, to ensure our voices are heard as this debate moves to the House.

Fraternally,

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