



Trust
Community
Respect

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”.

My name is Deb Crafts and I am the Director of Public Safety/Chief of Police at Northern Essex Community College in Haverhill and Lawrence. I am also the Vice President of the Massachusetts Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators (MACLEA) and I have been a campus police officer for over 30 years in the Commonwealth. During my career the profession has changed but one thing has always been consistent; my commitment to the people I serve. Law enforcement in general, and campus law enforcement in particular, in Massachusetts has always valued training and education. Working in an academic institution gives campus officers a unique perspective on education, in our jobs everything is about a teaching moment. I have been lucky enough throughout my career to be at Universities with brilliant minds working on diversity and inclusion, police studies, and human behavior; many of whom have volunteered to teach my staff. I am not alone, many of my colleagues are committed to making sure the collective knowledge of our communities are incorporated into our officers training and daily interactions. As you probably know, I am also fortunate enough to have an academy on the Haverhill campus, seeing those recruits working so hard to learn reminds me each day what incredible men and women there are in the profession. We WANT excellent training, we WANT good police officers to be able to succeed, and I am simply stating that campus police have a unique perspective that bonds policing and education.

As an executive board member of MACLEA, I'd ask that our organization have a seat at the table in designing the next generation of policing. MACLEA seeks to include a representative of the Association to serve on the Police Officer Standards and Accreditation Committee created by section 6 of Senate Bill 2820. MACLEA's member departments are responsible for the safety and wellbeing of the hundreds of thousands who live, learn, work, and visit our member institutions. We are in favor of the creation of a Police Officer Standards and Accreditation Committee (POSAC) and our representation on this committee would add valuable insight and information. It would also ensure that the safety and security of all of those on campuses across the Commonwealth are the highest priority.

In closing, I just want to reiterate that the hard working professionals in law enforcement truly want to do the right thing. I have always believe that recruiting officers who love the job will allow our agencies to thrive. I am concerned that good officers will be scared away and we won't be able to bring in the individuals who really want to make a difference. I truly hope that you will consider all of the testimony from the many agencies that will be weighing in in support of the police, we really do want to do the right thing.

*Deb Crafts, Director of Public Safety/Chief of Police Northern Essex Community College,
Vice President of the Massachusetts Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators*