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MASSACHUSETTS ASSOCIATION OF CAMPUS LAW ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATORS
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July 17, 2020

Representative Aaron M. Michlewitz
Chairperson, House Committee on Ways and Means
State House, Room 243
24 Beacon Street
Boston, MA 02133

Representative Claire D. Cronin
Chairperson, Joint Committee on the Judiciary
State House, Room 136
24 Beacon Street
Boston, MA 02133

Re: *Senate No. 2820 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*

Dear Sir and Madam:

I write to you as president of the Massachusetts Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators (MACLEA). MACLEA represents police and public safety departments at over 80 public and private colleges, universities, and hospitals around the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Our member departments are responsible for the safety, security, and wellbeing of hundreds of thousands of students, families, faculty, staff, neighbors, and visitors every year.

On behalf of MACLEA, we fully support your decision to address the important issue of police reform in Senate No. 2820 "*Reforming Police Standards.*" We applaud your efforts to seek constructive input by way of written testimony. Our association backs any legislation that will serve and protect our community members, ensure positive and constructive police reform, and improve our training, standards and practices.

The purpose of this letter is to bring to your attention our concerns about certain specific language in the proposed legislation. In particular, we would like to bring the following concerns to your attention:

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 interests of all of those on campuses across the Commonwealth were safer.

MACLEA firmly believes in the value of such a committee and has supported this effort for the past several years. MACLEA has placed a representative on the Police Officer Standards and Training (POST) Task Force, which is chaired by the Secretary of Public Safety and Security, Thomas Turco. Our MACLEA representative on POST has furthered the goal of standardizing police training, creating consistent police standards, and administering the certification and decertification of police officers in the Commonwealth.

There are over 100 colleges and universities in the Commonwealth and providing safety and securities services for those communities is a complex and challenging undertaking. The unique challenges faced by campus law enforcement necessitate our representation in a committee charged with the development of police training and creating police standards. While our police officers share the same law enforcement training and authority as our state and local partners, campus policing is unique in many ways. Young adults on campuses experience higher rates of sexual assault and sexual violence, higher rates of drug and alcohol use and abuse, and higher rates of high risk behaviors. It is vital to POSAC that these unique challenges and circumstances are represented and communicated during the development of police training and creation of police standards through a MACLEA-chosen campus law enforcement representative on the Committee.

MACLEA supports the concept of convening subject matter experts to address this complex issue. While we understand difficulty of your task, we urge the legislature to exercise care in determining the size and composition of the police officer standards and accreditation committee. The drafters have correctly included a "representative of a campus police organization" on the proposed community policing and behavioral health advisory council in section 16 of this legislation. MACLEA firmly believes that campus police must be also represented on the police officer standards and accreditation committee.

Accordingly, we respectfully request that you consider an amendment adding one (1) member to the committee who shall be a above the rank of lieutenant of a Massachusetts college or university police department nominated by the Massachusetts Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators.

We at MACLEA cannot emphasize enough how important we take our campus public safety mission. We all pledge to provide a safe environment for all who use our campuses. We welcome the opportunity to discuss this important issue with the Committee and we offer our assistance in working with the legislature to craft effective legislation.

Respectfully submitted,

Captain Andrew J. Turco
President