

*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*

I am not a police officer, nor have I ever been. I have a degree in business administration. I have worked with police officers for the past ten years first as a police matron, then a public safety dispatcher, and my current role as administrative assistant to the Chief of Police. I work with some of the most amazing men and women who truly put their heart and soul into their communities. These officers care about their communities as they not only work here but most also live in town, are raising their families here, and are involved in their children's activities as coaches and leaders.

I am extremely disappointed in the way police officers are being portrayed not only in the media but by our elected officials and leaders of our judicial system, state, and national government. I am horrified by what we witnessed with the murder of George Floyd. There is no justification for how that officer conducted himself. He is a murderer and should be penalized to the fullest extent for his behavior. I have not heard one officer state differently. Having to explain to my teenage daughter, who knows and respects the officers in this town as she has interacted with many of them not only due to my employment but also through the great school resource and school safety officer programs we have had in place, that there are just some bad people in the world no matter what the job has been difficult.

There are people who are bad, ill-intentioned and deceptive in all professions, teachers that molest children, businessmen that manipulate and steal, lawyers that are unethical and politicians that are shady and take political office for their own gains. The media has always liked to vilify police officers but now with the pushing of SB2820, I feel like officers are being attacked by those who are supposed to help them uphold the law. How are the officers sworn to uphold the law supposed to do that with their hands tied? There are items that are in that bill that belong there and are already in our department's policies and procedures (no choke holds, duty to intercede, etc.). There are many items in that bill, especially abolishing qualified immunity that absolutely do not belong in that bill, or any bill in my opinion. How are officers

supposed to uphold the law when they need to be concerned that a disgruntled arrestee can sue them for anything and everything because they are unhappy? How can they be expected to do their jobs when they need to be concerned that a committee of civilians, who have NEVER had to face things an officer has to face and make the split second decisions an officer has to make, can decide their fate (there's a reason we have internal affairs investigations on a complaint with several ranking officers with experience to investigate).

As a private citizen, I am concerned for our future and the potential lawlessness that will arise if this bill passes. Without the backing of our government officials and taking away the police's ability to perform their job to the capacity that their strict training provides, I am afraid the criminals will run rampant. If there is no consequences for their actions, what will be the deterrent? Who is going to protect my daughters from a society that allows criminals free reign?

Please take the time to go over this bill thoroughly. I feel as if this bill is a knee jerk reaction to a horrible incident that should have never happened. Please look into each and every portion of the bill. Talk to the people that know and understand this job and have discussions on both sides of the issues to be able to come to agreements and policies that make sense. Do not characterize the entire profession by the actions of a few. I, as a voting citizen, appreciate your time in reading this letter.

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