

TOWN OF BOURNE POLICE DEPARTMENT



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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”.

As a police officer for 33 years and a current Chief of Police for over 9 ½ years I am deeply concerned in the way the legislature is reacting and approaching these so-called police reforms.

All of the sections are concerning and also concerning is the rush to react by passing legislation that will only cause more harm and divisiveness. Some of the sections touch on subjects that your Massachusetts Chiefs have been asking for over several years. Most of these proposals are not needed to start with and if there are going to be changes of such significance, the legislature, and ALL of the legislatures, should be doing their due diligence to become properly educated on the issues of fact. The results of passing such measures will significantly reduce the safety of all of us citizens. The fact that this legislation is being rushed for no apparent reason other than personal political gains, is of the utmost concern.

Police officers are your last line of defense to keep us all safe. You are in fact diminishing that defense and the losers will be all of our citizens. You will see a loss of very valuable and experienced talent in the law enforcement community and a significant decrease in qualified and proper candidates to become police officers. Why would anyone want to subject their families to put more than their very lives on the line to protect anyone?

You are in fact sponsoring a significant reduction in all of our safety and will cause more people to defend themselves.

I'm not going to spell out all the issues as they have been spelled out by the Massachusetts Chiefs of Police. And I only had a few minutes to write this letter, that really should never had needed to be written.

You need to become educated to the facts because this is too big to pursue in the fashion that you have chosen. Please **SHOW YOUR INTELLIGENCE AND LEADERSHIP TO ALL OF US RESIDENTS**. Vote down all these proposals and pursue the desired change in a more responsible fashion.

Thank you for reading this (if you actually do),

Chief Dennis R. Woodside
Bourne