



LOCAL DIVISION 589
AMALGAMATED TRANSIT UNION, AFL-CIO-CLC
BOSTON CARMEN'S UNION

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Representative Aaron Michlewitz
Chair, House Committee on Ways and Means
State House, Room 243
Boston, MA 02133

Representative Claire Cronin
Chair, Joint Committee on the Judiciary
State House, Room 136
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Chair Claire Cronin and Chair Aaron Michlewitz,

Thank you for giving us the opportunity to submit testimony before you today. My name is Jim Evers, President of the Boston Carmen's Union, Local 589. I am proud to write today, on behalf of the over 4,000 MBTA employees represented by the Boston Carmen's Union who are also certified members of the Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU) – the largest transit union in the US and Canada.

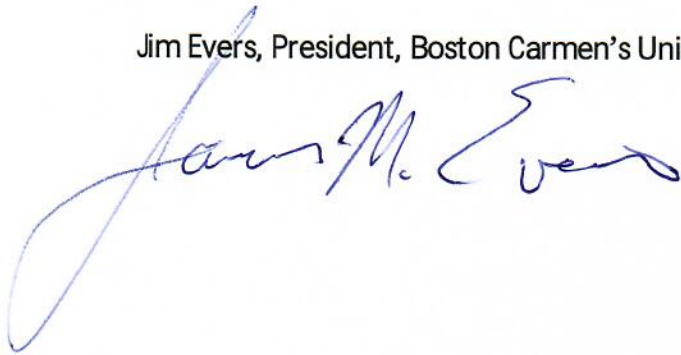
I write today in response to S 2820. The Bill is intended to help reform policing in Massachusetts but including the removal of Qualified Immunity is not in the best interest of policing or any public servant in the Commonwealth. The aspect of qualified immunity in the bill encompasses all public employees, beyond just law enforcement officers. As a result of S 2820, our members – and all employees across the public sector – may become subject to far-reaching legal consequences all of which carry a burdensome price tag for municipalities, as well as individuals and their families. As it is written, the Bill would drastically lower the standards under which a civil action could be brought against a public servant with qualified immunity. There are thousands of men and women throughout the Commonwealth who come to work each day to serve the public, they should not have to come to work in fear of a personal lawsuit for carrying out their duties.

As the men and women driving, operating, and maintaining MBTA buses, trains, and tracks, the Carmen's Union continues to exhibit its dedication to serving the Commonwealth. We urge the

House to avoid moving forward with these adaptations to qualified immunity, so to not lose focus of the police reform efforts of SB2820 and to spare both public employees and municipalities from unnecessary legal implications.

Sincerely,

Jim Evers, President, Boston Carmen's Union

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jim M. Evers". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "J" that loops back under the rest of the name.