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Via e-mail to: Testimony.HWMJudiciary@mahouse.gov

Dear Chairwoman Cronin and Chairman Michlewitz:

On behalf of the Fitchburg Police Department 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 Chief of Police for the City of Fitchburg and President of the Central Massachusetts Chiefs of Police Association, I endorse the opinion and stand in unity with the Massachusetts Chiefs of Police Association. Your honorable body has been given a brief list of bulleted comments in hope of providing some potential insight from our law enforcement/policing perspective. I truly believe that our perspectives will not fall upon deaf ears in your governance.

I am a firm believer that one should not accept the status quo but should embrace change with honest dialogue. The legislation before your honorable body should require just that. Community engagement, trust, and transparency are the norm and not the exception. I ask that you do not dismiss the accomplishments made in Massachusetts just to say that we did something. Let's collectively build upon our accomplishments to make Massachusetts more equitable, fair, and a just Commonwealth that values Black Lives and Communities of Color.

Respectfully submitted,

Ernest Martineau
Chief of Police
City of Fitchburg