

**From:** Kaitlin Porter <[kmpor24@gmail.com](mailto:kmpor24@gmail.com)>  
**Date:** July 17, 2020 at 10:01:16 AM EDT  
**Subject:** [External]: Bill S2800

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Kaitlin Porter, and I am the wife of a 10 year veteran of the Middleboro Police Department. My husband, Zachary Porter, has proudly served as a Patrolman for his hometown since 2012, after paying his own way through the Plymouth Police Academy. He has wanted to do this job since he was a child, after watching his uncle work for the same department for years. He wears his uniform with pride, does his job knowing he could sacrifice it all at any moment to save another person's life, also knowing that he is protected to do what it takes to save a life.

He has done the impossible job of informing our neighbor that his daughter was killed by a drunk driver; he has seen entire families lose their lives in accidents, doing everything he can to save them from a crushed vehicle after a head on collision; he has talked people down from suicide; he has saved life after life from drug overdoses - an ever-growing problem in this state and country. He has seen more than your eyes would ever want to witness, and this reform bill is attempting to take away all the GOOD that police officers can do on a DAILY basis.

Bill S2800 would not allow my husband to perform any duty of his job without fear of civil lawsuit, so why would anyone want to stay? If your child were to go into anaphylaxis at the park, and a police officer arrived before EMS, you would want them to administer life-saving EPI-PEN, would you not? Bill S2800 would make them think twice about doing anything beyond their scope due to fear of civil litigation.

Police officers, who have a duty to serve their community, should not do so with their hands tied behind their back, with the fear that everything they have worked so hard for will be taken away in an instant for simply doing their jobs.

What happened to George Floyd is an absolute tragedy, but I can assure you, bad cops like that are few and far between and 99.9% are good, hardworking people who signed up for the job so they can HELP people, regardless of skin color. This bill you are trying to pass has nothing to do with Black Lives Matter or equality across communities of color, it's a way to take away the power of the police, but at the end of the day if you do that, there will be no one left to protect us, in all communities.

Cities who have already moved to defund the police and police reform bills are seeing gun violence in excess of 200% over last year's statistics. I urge you, do not let Massachusetts fall into that gory statistic. If you want to be the change, do not pass a bill at 4 am without the input from the community it directly affects. If you cannot put yourself in a dangerous situation and fully understand how you can handle it, then do not try to pass a bill without understanding it's direct cause and effect.

I appreciate your time in reading this email. I urge you to reconsider the removal of qualified immunity for police officers, as it would result in an inability for police officers to proactively do their jobs to the fullest and therefore the communities in the Commonwealth would not be protected to the extent they are now. Massachusetts would turn into another state of chaos, and that is not what this country needs. We need to come together and support those who protect us, because if you ask any police officer in this state, they do not care what the color of your skin is or what community you live in, they were sworn to protect you, and they cannot do so under Bill S2800.

Thank you,  
Kaitlin Porter, wife of Patrolman Zachary Porter  
Middleborough Police Department  
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