

From: Kara Brunetta <kabrunetta@hotmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 9:38 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Subject: Mass Law Enforcement

To Massachusetts Reps:

I am in favor for:

- 1) Qualified Immunity for Officers
- 2) Due Process/Arbitration
- 3) Have members with law enforcement experience on the POSAC board

Please help our country by supporting the law enforcement men/women who give their life to protect citizens.

Thank you,
Kara Brunetta
Sterling, MA

From: Dalida Rocha <dalida.rocha@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 9:38 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Subject: S.2820

Chairman Michlewitz and Chairwoman Cronin,

Massachusetts can take a bold step towards ending systemic racism in policing by passing S. 2820, 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.

We need strong use of force guidelines for police in Massachusetts, public records of police misconduct, a duty to intervene policy, and bans on no-knock warrants, choke holds, tear gas, and other chemical weapons.

Please pass a bill that includes each of these critical reforms.

Dalida Rocha
75 Bellevue st. #2R
Dorchester, MA 02125

Dalida Rocha

"It is our duty to fight for our freedom. It is our duty to win. We must love each other and support each other. We have nothing to lose but our chains" Assata Shakur

From: Candelaria, Jesus R. <CandelariaJR@worcesterma.gov>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 9:38 AM

To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)

This senate bill is anti labor legislation. It removes our rights to due process, collective bargaining & inserts a board that has no training, experience or background in law enforcement. Please consider our public safety! This is hand cuffing all police officers rather than the bad police officers that really need to be handcuffed, and weeded out. Thank you for you time.

Jesus Candelaria

Sent from my iPhone

From: Caroline Thibault <carolinerthibault@gmail.com>

Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 9:37 AM

To: Eldridge, James (SEN); Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)

Subject: Support for the Reform, Shift + Build Act

Hello,

I hope you are doing well in this time of so much uncertainty and change. While the past few months have been difficult, I believe that these struggles have brought important issues to the forefront of our minds. These times of strife have exacerbated deep-rooted issues that have existed in this country for a long time, like racial injustice. I think the positive part of this situation is that this new context has captured the country's attention. These issues demand to be solved, and what better time to make positive change than now? What better way to make use of this new normal, than to improve this country and this Commonwealth, to create a new reality that is actually new, and to build a future that is better than the present and the past? Together, we can use this time to build a new normal that is better than the old.

We need to address the police brutality in this country and the disgusting treatment of Black Americans. We need to do something. We need to make change. The time is now.

We need to reform police standards. That is why I am expressing my support for the Reform, Shift + Build Act (S.2800). I am asking you to please do the same. Please make sure that the qualified immunity language stays in the bill. It is so important to make sure that police officers are held accountable for their actions. We need this change to stop abuses of power and dismantle systemic racism in our policing.

Thank you for your consideration.

Best,

Caroline Thibault
17 Edmund Brigham Way
Westborough, MA 01581

From: RE Smith <ruhamahsmith@icloud.com>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 9:37 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Subject: Reject Senate Policing bill SB 2820

Dear Members of the Massachusetts House of Representatives:

I am writing to ask you to reject the Policing Bill, SB 2820. It endangers public safety, removes important protections for police, and creates a commission to study and make recommendations regarding policing with a lopsided membership.

Section 49 alters our education laws to prohibit school officials from reporting immigration or citizenship status to any law enforcement authority or GANG MEMBERSHIP.

To think that school authorities would be prohibited from telling the police that a student might be a member of MS-13 or any other dangerous gang is extremely dangerous. Section 49 should be eliminated.

SB 2820 endangers our police by dramatically watering down "qualified immunity" in Section 10. This provision should be eliminated.

Section 52 should also be eliminated as it hinders an officer's ability to protect our roadways as well as him- or herself by not allowing them to ask someone who they have stopped about their immigration or citizenship status.

Section 63 creates a fifteen-member commission to make recommendations on policing. But, only 3 of the 15 are associated with policing. It should have more equal representation of law enforcement officers.

I oppose SB 2820, and at a minimum, it should specifically eliminate any provisions similar to sections 10, 49, 52, and amend Section 63 to have more police representation.

Sincerely,

Sent from my iPadFrom: Benyamin Meschede-Krasa <benmk@mit.edu>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 9:37 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Subject: Massachusetts needs police reform

Hello, my name is Benyamin Meschede-Krasa with the Greater Boston Interfaith Organization (GBIO). I live at 221 Langley rd. Newton MA. I am writing to urge you and the House to pass police reform that includes:

* Civil service access reform

- * Commission on structural racism
- * Clear statutory limits on police use of force
- * Qualified immunity reform

These measures above are the bare minimum and must be viewed as a small first step in reimagining public safety. If you face roadblocks and opposition in moving this legislation I urge you to compromise and take out the requirements for trainings and certifications. Grassroots organizations like Families for Justice and Healing and Blackd and Pink Boston have called out the bill for including the language on training so it is unclear why they were included in the first place if the goal is to respond to communities' calls for police reform.

Thank you very much.

Benyamin Meschede-Krasa

benmk@mit.edu

6177626828

221 Langley Rd, Newton Centre, MA 02459

Technical Research Associate, NSRL
 <https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=http-3A__www.neurostat.mit.edu_&d=DwMFaQ&c=1DF7oMaPKXpkYvev9V-fVahWL0QWnGCCAfCDz1Bns_w&r=uoevGInjCfTlguYncQubxpi5R6db_gq1YmKr0SCk2EnIiuk13zIs16rchf_GkGDD&m=jpBL1nsXIkyPzFDEOpQ0vKZAJAP0dZs3ttT4zu-fTfM&s=GLzIa_0EsjHHDI0hUUpMByxaMR2voQKgOBcjty-nNSs&e=>>

Picower Institute for Learning and Memory, MIT
 Dept. of Anesthesia, Critical Care and Pain Medicine, MGH, Harvard Medical School
 (he/him)
 From: thedkmurphys <thedkmurphys@yahoo.com>

Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 9:37 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Subject: FW: Bill S.2820

Please do not pass bill s. 2820. If passed we will be in a horrible position as a state and not only does it not protect the good officers out there it puts our society in grave danger

KERRYANN MURPHY 508 868 4943

WEST BOYLSTON Ma

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

From: Woods, John <john.woods@carverma.gov>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 9:37 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Subject: Bill S2820

Good Morning! This bill seems very unfair to me. If we are all supposed to be equal why are we trying to pass bills that focus on one race? That seems racial to me. We all need to work together and not pass bills that only focus on certain races. Just my opinion.

John Woods

Deputy Director

Operations & Maintenance

108 Main Street

Carver, MA 02330

Public Records Disclaimer: All electronic mail messages which are sent to or received by this account are subject to Public Records Law and may be disclosed to third parties.

From: Tina Collins <teemarie_collins@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 9:36 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Subject: Police Reform Bill S.2820

Dear Representatives,

As your constituent, I write to you today to express my strong opposition to many parts of the recently passed S.2820. I hope that you will join me

in prioritizing support for the establishment of a standards and accreditation committee, which includes increased transparency and reporting, as well as strong actions focused on the promotion of diversity and restrictions on excessive force. These goals are attainable and are needed now.

I am, however, concerned at the expansion of this legislation, targeting fundamental protections such as due process and qualified immunity. This bill in its present form is troubling in many ways and will make an already dangerous and difficult job even more dangerous for the men and women in law enforcement who serve our communities every day with honor and courage. Below are just a few areas, among many others, that concern me and warrant your rejection of these components of this bill:

(1)?Due Process for all police officers: Fair and equitable process under the law demands the same rights of appeal afforded to all citizens and fellow public servants. Due process should not be viewed as an arduous impediment, but favored as a bedrock principle of fundamental fairness, procedure and accountability.

(2)?Qualified Immunity: Qualified Immunity does not protect problem police officers. Qualified Immunity is extended to all public employees who act reasonably and in compliance with the rules and regulations of their respective departments, not just police officers. Qualified Immunity protects all public employees, as well as their municipalities, from frivolously lawsuits. This bill removes important liability protections essential for all public servants. Removing qualified immunity protections in this way will open officers, and other public employees to personal liabilities, causing significant financial burdens. This will impede future recruitment in all public fields: police officers, teachers, nurses, fire fighters, corrections officers, etc., as they are all directly affected by qualified immunity protections.

(3)?POSA Committee: The composition of the POSA Committee must include more rank-and-file police officers and experts in the law enforcement field. If you're going to regulate law enforcement, up to and including termination, you must understand law enforcement. The same way doctors oversee doctors, lawyers oversee lawyers, teachers oversee teachers, experts in law enforcement should oversee practitioners in law enforcement.

In closing, I remind you that those who protect and serve communities across Massachusetts are some of the most sophisticated and educated law enforcement officials in the nation. I again implore you to amend and correct S.2820 so as to treat the men and women in law enforcement with the respect and dignity they deserve.

Tina Collins
19 Bonney St
Westwood, MA

Sent from my iPhone

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

<https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__go.onelink.me_107872968-3Fpid-3DInProduct-26c-3DGlobal-5FInternal-5FYGrowth-5FAndroidEmailSig-5F-5FAndroidUsers-26af-5Fwl-3Dym-26af-5Fsub1-3DInternal-26af-5Fsub2-3DGlobal-5FYGrowth-26af-5Fsub3-3DEmailSignature&d=DwMFaQ&c=1DF7oMaPKXpkYvev9V-

fVahWL0QWnGCCAfCDz1Bns_w&r=uoevGInjCfTlguYncQubxpi5R6db_gq1YmKr0SCk2EnIiuk
13zIs16rchf_GkGDD&m=Y5pZiTrNxo2pWUOAHeLqAeKhI4nFK4qJP7Ltx78012E&s=CMfit1GT
VZVf503G6zKluD5LegaMuMy0IoFnAE3iK3o&e=>

From: crystal patsavos <cpatsavos1@yahoo.com>

Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 9:36 AM

To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)

Subject: Fwd: Responded from my rep=>Fwd: [External]: Bill S.2800

Please scroll down to read the original email sent opposing this police bill.

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Jennifer Smith <jls_7@hotmail.com>

Date: July 16, 2020 at 8:48:12 PM EDT

To: crystal patsavos <cpatsavos1@yahoo.com>

Subject: Responded from my rep=>Fwd: [External]: Bill S.2800

?

FYI-I got this response

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Mirra, Leonard - Rep. (HOU)" <Leonard.Mirra@mahouse.gov>

Date: July 16, 2020 at 5:15:12 PM EDT

To: Jennifer Smith <jls_7@hotmail.com>

Subject: RE: [External]: Bill S.2800

?Dear Jennifer,

Thank you for writing to me about this bill, I've heard from countless people on it and I agree with you entirely. It would be a terrible idea to remove qualified immunity protections from police officers and the other professionals that we rely on every day.

While I could certainly support a bill that provides some reforms I will not vote for or support a bill that takes away this vital protection from law enforcement officers.

The bill will be getting a full public hearing and it's my hope that we will make the appropriate changes so that we can have a bill that has the full support of the public, the police, and elected officials. I will certainly do all I can to make that happen.

Sincerely,

Lenny Mirra
State Representative, 2nd Essex District

From: Jennifer Smith [jls_7@hotmail.com]
Sent: Thursday, July 09, 2020 9:06 PM
To: DiZoglio, Diana - (SEN); Mirra, Leonard - Rep. (HOU)
Subject: [External]: Bill S.2800

My name is Jennifer Smith and I live at 8 Denworth Bell Circle, Bradford MA 01835. As your constituent, I write to you today to express my staunch opposition to S.2800, a piece of hastily-thrown-together legislation that will hamper law enforcement efforts across the Commonwealth. It robs police officers of the same Constitutional Rights extended to citizens across the nation. It is misguided and wrong.

Like most of my neighbors, I am dismayed at the scarcity of respect and protections extended to police officers in your proposed reforms. While there is always room for improvement in policing, the proposed legislation has far too many flaws. Of the many concerns, three, in particular, stand out and demand immediate attention, modification and/or correction. Those issues are:

(1) Due Process for all police officers: Fair and equitable process under the law. The appeal processes afforded to police officers have been in place for generations. They deserve to maintain the right to appeal given to all of our public servants.

(2) Qualified Immunity: Qualified Immunity does not protect problem police officers. Qualified Immunity is extended to all public employees who act reasonably and in compliance with the rules and regulations of their respective departments, not just police officers. Qualified Immunity protects all public employees, as well as their municipalities, from frivolously unrealistic lawsuits.

(3) POSA Committee: The composition of the POSA Committee must include rank-and-file police officers. If you're going to regulate law enforcement, up to and including termination, you must understand law enforcement. The same way doctors oversee doctors, lawyers oversee lawyers, teachers oversee teachers, law enforcement should oversee law enforcement.

In closing, I remind you that those who protect and serve communities across Massachusetts are some of the most sophisticated and educated law enforcement officials in the nation. Let me remind you that in 2015 President Obama recognized the Boston Police Department as one of the best in the nation at community policing. I again implore you to amend and correct S.2800 so as to treat the men and women in law enforcement with the respect and dignity they deserve.

Sincerely,
Jennifer Smith

From: Nico Bocour <nbocour@giffords.org>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 9:36 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)

Cc: DeLeo, Robert - Rep. (HOU); Cronin, Claire - Rep. (HOU); Gonzalez, Carlos - Rep. (HOU)
Subject: Testimony from Giffords, fmr Congresswoman Gabby Giffords' organization

Dear Speaker DeLeo, Chair Cronin, and Chairman Gonzalez:

On behalf of Giffords, the gun violence prevention organization founded by former Congresswoman Gabby Giffords, I urge you to work to ensure Massachusetts leads on efforts to enact comprehensive measures to reform policing, justice, and public safety policies in the Commonwealth.

After decades of systemic oppression of Black, Indigenous, and People of Color communities, and in the wake of the recent killings of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Tony McDade, and thousands of others at the hands of law enforcement, people have risen up across the country to demand meaningful reforms to the systems that continue to allow killings like these to occur without consequence.

For years, Americans have been presented with a false choice between just and effective policing, but the evidence is clear: transparent, accountable, community-oriented policing that builds community trust is vital to both officers' and community safety. Policing reforms help prevent excessive force and police violence, build community trust necessary to effectively protect, serve, and solve crimes like homicides and shootings, and help avert cycles of vigilante retaliatory violence from taking root when the formal justice system has failed.

The evidence is clear that abusive and unaccountable policing, by contrast, results in more death and violence to victims of police violence, to officers, and indirectly to whole communities. As we discussed at length in an in-depth report released in January, *In Pursuit of Peace: Building Police-Community Trust to Break the Cycle of Violence*, there is a strong link between community distrust and community violence. Research has shown that significant numbers of people, especially in BIPOC communities, do not report violent injuries to law enforcement, not because they do not care or seek justice for violence, but because they do not trust law enforcement to justly or effectively keep them safe or treat them fairly. Research has also shown that police brutality and killings weaken community trust, lead to significant drops in crime reporting and 911 calls, and lead to sharp spikes in gun violence in turn, like the ones we've seen in recent months in cities across the country.

Policing is at its most effective at its most vital task--keeping people safe and when it is performed with a commitment to respect, equity, transparent and accountable procedural justice, and meaningful partnership with community-based service providers working to help people break free from cycles of violence, desperation, trauma, and retaliation. Giffords encourages Massachusetts to take the important and necessary steps toward police, justice, and public safety reform with an eye toward equity, accountability, respect, justice, and community participation.

We have endorsed the provisions of the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act, which recently passed the U.S. House of Representatives, and urge you to ensure Massachusetts crafts a comprehensive police reform bill with the following essential principles and provisions in mind:

1. Hold officers and agencies accountable for unconstitutional or abusive policing practices.

* End Qualified Immunity for law enforcement to allow people to recover damages for constitutional violations.

* Create a state civil rights statute to empower Massachusetts' Attorney General to conduct "pattern and practice" investigations to identify abusive and/or unconstitutional policing practices and bring civil actions to eliminate patterns or practices of unconstitutional policing.

* Publicly disclose records from investigations into officer misconduct and use of force.

* Create a police officer standards and accreditation committee or agency, with the authority to certify, renew, revoke, and modify LE officer certifications.

* Require certification from this agency as a condition of employment by a law enforcement agency.

* Prohibit recertification and hiring of officers who have records of abuse.

2. Establish transparency about the current state of policing in the Commonwealth through data collection, analysis, and study.

- * Require collection and reporting of data, including race of person stopped, from instances when officers stop a vehicle or person or issue traffic citations.

- * Require collection and reporting of data, including race, on law enforcement-related injuries and deaths.

- * Create and maintain publicly accessible databases with information about officers' employment, certification, misconduct, and complaints of misconduct.

3. Invest in BIPOC communities, and in community-based violence intervention responses.

- * Ensure that Massachusetts continues to build on its critical investment in SSYI and other community-based violence intervention initiatives that help hire and deploy professional violence interrupters, street outreach professionals, youth counselors, and similar violence prevention professionals as a critical part of Massachusetts' crisis response and public safety infrastructure.

- * Foster safe and welcoming schools by investing in mental health and de-escalation professionals rather than assigning law enforcement with firearms and arrest powers to schools on a regular basis.

- * Clarifying Massachusetts' recently enacted expungement laws to authorize more people with lower-level juvenile offenses to expunge their criminal records, gain full employment opportunities, and fully reenter society.

4. Modify law enforcement training and standards with an eye toward racial equity and harm reduction.

- * Prohibit racial, religious, and other discriminatory profiling.

- * Establish stronger standards for use of force by law enforcement officers that prioritize the sanctity of life, ban chokeholds and similar neck compression holds, and require the use of de-escalation tactics when feasible.
- * Require officers to intervene when they observe colleagues using excessive force.
- * Train officers on de-escalation in crisis response, and consider the use of trained non-law enforcement staff in crisis response when a law enforcement response may be excessive.
- * Place strong limits on the use of 'no-knock' unannounced entry warrants.
- * Restrict the use of chemical irritants and militarized police tactics against civilians for crowd control.
- * Limit the transfer of military-grade equipment to state and local law enforcement.
- * Require body and dashboard cameras, and establish strong requirements for their use that account for privacy concerns of civilians and crime victims.

Thank you for your time and consideration,
 Nico Bocour
 Government Affairs Director, Giffords

Nico Bocour

Government Affairs Director

Giffords: Courage to Fight Gun Violence

973-715-9385 | giffords.org
 <https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=http-3A__giffords.org&d=DwMFaQ&c=lDF7oMaPKXpkYvev9V-fVahWL0QWnGCCAfCDz1Bns_w&r=uoevGIInjCfTlguYncQubxpi5R6db_gq1YmKr0SCk2EnIiuk13zIs16rchf_GkGDD&m=s3jh7J2LHTmdY0x893zzaos5ijj2pc0pevSSrZkmZ3E&s=SK8gf2ope4f3PdJUOquv2uf-q_wNBMjCwY30M46ADjY&e=>>

Explore our Annual Gun Law Scorecard

<https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__lawcenter.giffords.org_scorecard_&d=DwMFaQ&c=1DF7oMaPKXpkYvev9V-fVahWL0QWnGCCAfCDz1Bns_w&r=uoevGInjCfTlguYncQubxpi5R6db_gq1YmKr0SCk2EnIiuk13zIs16rchf_GkGDD&m=s3jh7J2LHTmdY0x893zzaos5ijj2pc0pevSSrZkmZ3E&s=tOhownQjSxA2nyX7dglLZzjCtF8tTdnGyH_QNulT--s&e=> - Is your state doing enough to save lives?

gunlawscorecard.org <https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__lawcenter.giffords.org_scorecard_&d=DwMFaQ&c=1DF7oMaPKXpkYvev9V-fVahWL0QWnGCCAfCDz1Bns_w&r=uoevGInjCfTlguYncQubxpi5R6db_gq1YmKr0SCk2EnIiuk13zIs16rchf_GkGDD&m=s3jh7J2LHTmdY0x893zzaos5ijj2pc0pevSSrZkmZ3E&s=tOhownQjSxA2nyX7dglLZzjCtF8tTdnGyH_QNulT--s&e=>

From: kclifford1995 <kclifford1995@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 9:36 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Subject: S.2820

Dear Representative Keating,

My name is Kimberley Clifford and I live at 103 Old Colony Dr. in Mashpee. As your constituent, I write to you today to express staunch opposition to S.2820, a piece of hastily-thrown-together legislation that will hamper law enforcement efforts across the Commonwealth. It robs police officers of the same Constitutional Rights extended to citizens across the nation. It is misguided and wrong.

Like most of my neighbors, I am dismayed at the scarcity of respect and protections extended to police officers in your proposed reforms. While there is always room for improvement in policing, the proposed legislation has far too many flaws. Of the many concerns, three, in particular, stand out and demand immediate attention, modification and/or correction. Those issues are:

(1) Due Process for all police officers: Fair and equitable process under the law. The appeal processes afforded to police officers have been in place for generations. They deserve to maintain the right to appeal given to all of our public servants.

(2) Qualified Immunity: Qualified Immunity does not protect problem police officers. Qualified Immunity is extended to all public employees who act reasonably and in compliance with the rules and regulations of their respective departments, not just police officers. Qualified Immunity protects all public employees, as well as their municipalities, from frivolously unrealistic lawsuits.

(3) POSA Committee: The composition of the POSA Committee must include rank-and-file police officers. If you're going to regulate law enforcement, up to and including termination, you must understand law enforcement. The same way doctors oversee doctors, lawyers oversee lawyers, teachers oversee teachers, law enforcement should oversee law enforcement.

In closing, I remind you that those who protect and serve communities across Massachusetts are some of the most sophisticated and educated law enforcement officials in the nation. Let me remind you that in 2015 President Obama recognized the Boston Police Department as one of the best in the nation at community policing. I again implore you to amend and correct S.2820 so as to treat the men and women in law enforcement with the respect and dignity they deserve.

Sincerely,

Kimberley Clifford

Sent via the Samsung Galaxy S7, an AT&T 4G LTE smartphone

From: kclifford1995 <kclifford1995@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 9:35 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Subject: S.2820

Dear Senator Warren,

My name is Kimberley Clifford and I live at 103 Old Colony Dr. in Mashpee. As your constituent, I write to you today to express staunch opposition to S.2820, a piece of hastily-thrown-together legislation that will hamper law enforcement efforts across the Commonwealth. It robs police officers of the same Constitutional Rights extended to citizens across the nation. It is misguided and wrong.

Like most of my neighbors, I am dismayed at the scarcity of respect and protections extended to police officers in your proposed reforms. While there is always room for improvement in policing, the proposed legislation has far too many flaws. Of the many concerns, three, in particular, stand out and demand immediate attention, modification and/or correction. Those issues are:

(1) Due Process for all police officers: Fair and equitable process under the law. The appeal processes afforded to police officers have been in place for generations. They deserve to maintain the right to appeal given to all of our public servants.

(2) Qualified Immunity: Qualified Immunity does not protect problem police officers. Qualified Immunity is extended to all public employees who act reasonably and in compliance with the rules and regulations of their respective departments, not just police officers. Qualified Immunity protects all public employees, as well as their municipalities, from frivolously unrealistic lawsuits.

(3) POSA Committee: The composition of the POSA Committee must include rank-and-file police officers. If you're going to regulate law enforcement, up to and including termination, you must understand law enforcement. The same way doctors oversee doctors, lawyers oversee

lawyers, teachers oversee teachers, law enforcement should oversee law enforcement.

In closing, I remind you that those who protect and serve communities across Massachusetts are some of the most sophisticated and educated law enforcement officials in the nation. Let me remind you that in 2015 President Obama recognized the Boston Police Department as one of the best in the nation at community policing. I again implore you to amend and correct S.2820 so as to treat the men and women in law enforcement with the respect and dignity they deserve.

Sincerely,

Kimberley Clifford

Sent via the Samsung Galaxy S7, an AT&T 4G LTE smartphone

From: Susan Flaherty <clintoninn81012@comcast.net>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 9:35 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Subject: Acceptance of Written Testimony

Dear Chair Aaron Michlewitz and Chair Claire Cronin

Re: S2820

Please DO NOT pass bill S2820. This will endanger the police that have sworn to protect us and the lives of the citizens if it is passed which is why I am writing to express this bill SHOULD NOT PASS. It is exactly two years since we lost our police officer Michael Chesna as he was just doing his job, protecting the Weymouth residents. I can never repay him or his family, but I can try to protect his brothers/sisters in blue and the rest of the residents of my town.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Thank you

Susan Flaherty
Weymouth, MA resident
508-345-3777
From: kclifford1995 <kclifford1995@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 9:35 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)

Subject: S.2820

Dear Senator Markey,

My name is Kimberley Clifford and I live at 103 Old Colony Dr. in Mashpee. As your constituent, I write to you today to express staunch opposition to S.2820, a piece of hastily-thrown-together legislation that will hamper law enforcement efforts across the Commonwealth. It robs police officers of the same Constitutional Rights extended to citizens across the nation. It is misguided and wrong.

Like most of my neighbors, I am dismayed at the scarcity of respect and protections extended to police officers in your proposed reforms. While there is always room for improvement in policing, the proposed legislation has far too many flaws. Of the many concerns, three, in particular, stand out and demand immediate attention, modification and/or correction. Those issues are:

(1) Due Process for all police officers: Fair and equitable process under the law. The appeal processes afforded to police officers have been in place for generations. They deserve to maintain the right to appeal given to all of our public servants.

(2) Qualified Immunity: Qualified Immunity does not protect problem police officers. Qualified Immunity is extended to all public employees who act reasonably and in compliance with the rules and regulations of their respective departments, not just police officers. Qualified Immunity protects all public employees, as well as their municipalities, from frivolously unrealistic lawsuits.

(3) POSA Committee: The composition of the POSA Committee must include rank-and-file police officers. If you're going to regulate law enforcement, up to and including termination, you must understand law enforcement. The same way doctors oversee doctors, lawyers oversee lawyers, teachers oversee teachers, law enforcement should oversee law enforcement.

In closing, I remind you that those who protect and serve communities across Massachusetts are some of the most sophisticated and educated law enforcement officials in the nation. Let me remind you that in 2015 President Obama recognized the Boston Police Department as one of the best in the nation at community policing. I again implore you to amend and correct S.2820 so as to treat the men and women in law enforcement with the respect and dignity they deserve.

Sincerely,

Kimberley Clifford

Sent via the Samsung Galaxy S7, an AT&T 4G LTE smartphone

From: Marc Osborne <marc.osborne@gmail.com>

Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 9:34 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Subject: Please pass S.2820

Good morning Chairman Michlewitz and Chairwoman Cronin,

Massachusetts can take a bold step towards ending systemic racism in policing by passing S. 2820, 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.

We need strong use of force guidelines for police in Massachusetts, public records of police misconduct, a duty to intervene policy, and bans on no-knock warrants, choke holds, tear gas, and other chemical weapons.

Please pass a bill that includes each of these critical reforms. I'm all for this one!

Marc J. Osborne

14 Harwich Road

Brockton, MA 02301

From: Jane Fanning <janefanning@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 9:35 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Subject: S2820

Representative DeCoste,

As your constituent, I write to you today to express my strong opposition to many parts of the recently passed S.2820. I hope that you will join me in prioritizing support for the establishment of a standards and accreditation committee, which includes increased transparency and reporting, as well as strong actions focused on the promotion of diversity and restrictions on excessive force. These goals are attainable and are needed now.

I am, however, concerned at the expansion of this legislation, targeting fundamental protections such as due process and qualified immunity. This bill in its present form is troubling in many ways and will make an already dangerous and difficult job even more dangerous for the men and women in law enforcement who serve our communities every day with honor and courage. Below are just a few areas, among many others, that concern me and warrant your rejection of these components of this bill:

(1)?Due Process for all police officers: Fair and equitable process under the law demands the same rights of appeal afforded to all citizens and fellow public servants. Due process should not be viewed as an arduous

impediment, but favored as a bedrock principle of fundamental fairness, procedure and accountability.

(2)?Qualified Immunity: Qualified Immunity does not protect problem police officers. Qualified Immunity is extended to all public employees who act reasonably and in compliance with the rules and regulations of their respective departments, not just police officers. Qualified Immunity protects all public employees, as well as their municipalities, from frivolously lawsuits. This bill removes important liability protections essential for all public servants. Removing qualified immunity protections in this way will open officers, and other public employees to personal liabilities, causing significant financial burdens. This will impede future recruitment in all public fields: police officers, teachers, nurses, fire fighters, corrections officers, etc., as they are all directly affected by qualified immunity protections.

(3)?POSA Committee: The composition of the POSA Committee must include more rank-and-file police officers and experts in the law enforcement field. If you're going to regulate law enforcement, up to and including termination, you must understand law enforcement. The same way doctors oversee doctors, lawyers oversee lawyers, teachers oversee teachers, experts in law enforcement should oversee practitioners in law enforcement.

In closing, I remind you that those who protect and serve communities across Massachusetts are some of the most sophisticated and educated law enforcement officials in the nation. I again implore you to amend and correct S.2820 so as to treat the men and women in law enforcement with the respect and dignity they deserve.

Jane Fanning
46 Arthur Matthew Dr
Hanover MA

Sent from my iPhone
From: Audrianna Harrington <audriannakharrington@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 9:34 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Subject: S.2820 Opposition letter

My name is Audrianna Harrington and I live at 10 A Powers Street, Spencer MA 01562. I write to you today to express my staunch opposition to S.2820, a piece of hastily-thrown-together legislation that will hamper law enforcement efforts across the Commonwealth. It robs police officers, of the same Constitutional Rights extended to citizens across the nation. It is misguided and wrong.

Like most of my neighbors, I am dismayed at the scarcity of respect and protections extended to police officers in your proposed reforms. While there is always room for improvement in policing, the proposed legislation has far too many flaws. Of the many concerns, three, in particular, stand out and demand immediate attention, modification and/or correction. Those issues are:

(1) Due Process for all police officers: Fair and equitable process under the law. The appeal processes afforded to police officers have been in place for generations. They deserve to maintain the right to appeal given to all public servants including myself working for the Department of Public Works in the City of Worcester.

(2) Qualified Immunity: Qualified Immunity does not protect problem police officers. Qualified Immunity is extended to all public employees who act reasonably and in compliance with the rules and regulations of their respective departments, not just police officers. Qualified Immunity protects all public employees from frivolously unrealistic lawsuits. I deserve to have this continue for me in my job working for the City of Worcester.

(3) POSA Committee: The composition of the POSA Committee must include rank-and-file police officers. If you're going to regulate law enforcement, up to and including termination, you must understand law enforcement. The same way doctors oversee doctors, lawyers oversee lawyers, teachers oversee teachers, law enforcement should oversee law enforcement.

In closing, I remind you that those who protect and serve communities across Massachusetts are some of the most sophisticated and educated law enforcement officials in the nation. Let me remind you that in 2015 President Obama recognized the Boston Police Department as one of the best in the nation at community policing. I again implore you to amend and correct S.2820 so as to treat the men and women in law enforcement with the respect and the dignity they deserve.

Respectfully,

Audrianna K. Harrington

From: Mackenzie Coakley <mcoakley8@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 9:34 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Subject: S.2820

As your constituent, I write to you today to express my strong opposition to many parts of the recently passed S.2820. I hope that you will join me in prioritizing support for the establishment of a standards and accreditation committee, which includes increased transparency and reporting, as well as strong actions focused on the promotion of diversity

and restrictions on excessive force. These goals are attainable and are needed now.

I am, however, concerned at the expansion of this legislation, targeting fundamental protections such as due process and qualified immunity. This bill in its present form is troubling in many ways and will make an already dangerous and difficult job even more dangerous for the men and women in law enforcement who serve our communities every day with honor and courage. Below are just a few areas, among many others, that concern me and warrant your rejection of these components of this bill:

(1) Due Process for all police officers: Fair and equitable process under the law demands the same rights of appeal afforded to all citizens and fellow public servants. Due process should not be viewed as an arduous impediment, but favored as a bedrock principle of fundamental fairness, procedure and accountability.

(2) Qualified Immunity: Qualified Immunity does not protect problem police officers. Qualified Immunity is extended to all public employees who act reasonably and in compliance with the rules and regulations of their respective departments, not just police officers. Qualified Immunity protects all public employees, as well as their municipalities, from frivolously lawsuits. This bill removes important liability protections essential for all public servants. Removing qualified immunity protections in this way will open officers, and other public employees to personal liabilities, causing significant financial burdens. This will impede future recruitment in all public fields: police officers, teachers, nurses, fire fighters, corrections officers, etc., as they are all directly affected by qualified immunity protections.

(3) POSA Committee: The composition of the POSA Committee must include more rank-and-file police officers and experts in the law enforcement field. If you're going to regulate law enforcement, up to and including termination, you must understand law enforcement. The same way doctors oversee doctors, lawyers oversee lawyers, teachers oversee teachers, experts in law enforcement should oversee practitioners in law enforcement.

In closing, I remind you that those who protect and serve communities across Massachusetts are some of the most sophisticated and educated law enforcement officials in the nation. I again implore you to amend and correct S.2820 so as to treat the men and women in law enforcement with the respect and dignity they deserve.

Thank you,

Mackenzie Coakley

206 Federal Hill Road

Oxford, MA 01540

Mcoakley8@yahoo.com

From: Kate Canny <kcanny71@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 9:34 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Subject: Opposition to House Bill S.2820 as written

Good Evening

My name is Kathryn Canny and I live at 191 Hillside Drive in Hanover. I write to you today with regard to S.2820. This is a bill that has the attention of many in our Commonwealth. Most particularly, it has the attention of Police/Law Enforcement officers, those that love them and those that support them.

I write to you as the wife of an active Weymouth Police Officer. Over the first 20 years of my husband's career I had the obvious worries of any law enforcement spouse, but those worries were relatively small and I always felt confident that he would come home safe at the end of his shift. It was a different world then. Police Officers were respected and appreciated for the job they did. As the wife of a Police Officer in today's world things are different. Like all police wives, I watch my husband leave and hope and pray that he comes home safely every day. My last words to him every time he leaves are "be safe". The last words our children say to their dad when he leaves are "be safe". In our world this is "normal" but not everyone lives in the same world we do, not all families need to say "be safe" when their loved one leaves for work.

I also write to you as a member of a larger family - the Blue Family. This week, Wednesday July 15 to be specific, my Blue Family and I remembered one of our own, Sergeant Michael Chesna. On July 15, 2018 this husband, father, son, brother and uncle who just also happened to be a Police Officer was murdered. I will never forget where I was when my husband got the initial call about Mike. I will never forget where I was when I learned that news that Mike had died. I will never forget attending Mike's wake and funeral with my husband, my Blue Family and the Chesna Family. Sitting in St. Mary of the Sacred Heart Church in Hanover with my fellow police wives is something none of us will never forget. A police wake and funeral are things NONE of us ever want to attend again.

As I noted above, S.2820 has caught our attention. There are pieces of S.2820 that are acceptable and appropriate when we think of a bill with a goal of constructive Police/Law Enforcement reform.

Like many, I support enhanced training and appropriate certification standards that apply to individual officers. I also support the accreditation of police departments. Certification and accreditation both serve as a commitment to excellence in training and promote each individual's and department's maintenance of the highest professional standards. Certification and accreditation also serve to enhance public confidence. Public confidence, and I might offer respect, is critical to police officers being able to do their job on a daily basis. I also support the ban of the use of excessive force by police officers as well as the proposal that every individual officer has the duty to intervene if they witness excessive force. These parts of S.2820 all make sense when

we focus on the idea that this bill is about constructive police/law enforcement reform.

S.2820 has also caught our attention because there are pieces of it that do not allow for the fair and unbiased treatment of Police Officers. Most importantly, the removal of Qualified Immunity for Police Officers is unfair and potentially dangerous. Qualified Immunity, as I understand it, does not excuse criminal conduct. It is, instead, a legal protection offered to all public employees and serves as a protection against losing one's home or life savings in a civil suit. As many people know, Police Officers need to make in the moment decisions every day when they put on their uniform. If they don't make those decisions quickly enough they face the very real chance of death or injury. Police Officers CANNOT do the job they were hired to do safely and effectively if they are worried about liability. They CANNOT do the job they were hired to do safely and effectively if they are worried about losing the home their family lives in. They CANNOT do the job they were hired to do safely and effectively if they are worried about how they will support their loved ones. Is there a chance that Sergeant Michael Chesna chose not to use his weapon on the morning of July 15, 2018 because he was worried that such use would have been viewed as use of excessive force? Was he worried that if he used his weapon he could potentially lose his family's home? The answers to those questions we will never know. It does seem reasonable to assume, however, that had Sergeant Michael Chesna chosen to use his weapon to shoot Emanuel Lopes he would still be here today. He would still be here with his family who miss him every single day. Police Officers need to be able to make quick decisions and act in good faith without fearing that each and every decision they make could lead to a lawsuit against them. Police Officers who are forced to stop, pause and think about potential liability before they act are Police officers whose lives are at risk. The removal of Qualified Immunity should NOT be part of the final police/law enforcement reform package.

As I stated, there are parts of S.2820 that are acceptable and appropriate when we think of a bill with a goal of constructive Police/Law Enforcement reform. The bill as it currently stands before you is NOT acceptable as a total package. If Legislation such as that tied to S.2820 is to be effective, appropriate and just for all citizens of our Commonwealth it takes time along with careful thought and consideration. Reactive and rash decision making do not serve the citizens of our Commonwealth. The early acts in the Senate to rush a vote on this bill and to not study pieces like Qualified Immunity further have been extremely disheartening. I appreciated those Senators who called for more time and for a closer look at the bill in order to produce a product that was fair and just for all citizens of our Commonwealth. I also appreciate the willingness of the House to hear from the citizens of the Commonwealth. Legislation such as S.2820 impacts all citizens so all of those citizens should be allowed to share their thoughts.

In closing, I urge you to take the time that is necessary to make the best decision for ALL citizens of our Commonwealth. We have some of the most well-trained Police/Law Enforcement Officers in the country. They need to be able to do the job they were trained to do in a safe and effective way. I urge you to correct S.2820 so as to treat the men and women in Law Enforcement with the respect and dignity they deserve.

Sincerely,

Kathryn Canny

191 Hillside Drive

Hanover

From: Mark Schafer <msmexico2@gmail.com>

Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 9:35 AM

To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)

Subject: I urge you to pass serious, transformative police reform

To: Representative Aaron Michlewitz, Chairperson, House Committee on Ways and Means

Representative Claire Cronin, Chairperson, Joint Committee on the Judiciary

My name is Mark Schafer with the Greater Boston Interfaith Organization (GBIO). I live at 13 Highland Ave. #3, Roxbury, MA 02119. I am writing to urge you and the House to pass police reform that includes:

- * Implement Peace Officer Standards & Training with certification
- * Civil service access reform
- * Commission on structural racism
- * Clear statutory limits on police use of force
- * Qualified immunity reform

Thank you very much.

Mark Schafer
msmexico2@gmail.com
617 238-5776
13 Highland Ave. #3
Roxbury, MA 02119

From: Jeff Brown <jeffmbrown30@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 9:34 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Subject: S2820

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Jeffrey Brown and I live at 34 Stone Gate Drive, Plymouth, MA. As your constituent, I write to you to express my staunch opposition to S.2800, a piece of hastily-thrown-together legislation that will hamper law enforcement efforts across the Commonwealth. It robs police officers of the same Constitutional Rights extended to citizens across the nation. It is misguided and wrong.

Like most of my neighbors, I am dismayed at the scarcity of respect and protections extended to police officers in your proposed reforms. While there is always room for improvement in policing, the proposed legislation has far too many flaws. Of the many concerns, three, in particular, stand out and demand immediate attention, modification and/or correction. Those issues are:

(1) Due Process for all police officers: Fair and equitable process under the law. The appeal processes afforded to police officers have been in place for generations. They deserve to maintain the right to appeal given to all of our public servants.

(2) Qualified Immunity: Qualified Immunity does not protect problem police officers. Qualified Immunity is extended to all public employees who act reasonably and in compliance with the rules and regulations of their respective departments, not just police officers. Qualified Immunity protects all public employees, as well as their municipalities, from frivolously unrealistic lawsuits.

(3) POSA Committee: The composition of the POSA Committee must include rank-and-file police officers. If you're going to regulate law enforcement, up to and including termination, you must understand law enforcement. The same way doctors oversee doctors, lawyers oversee lawyers, teachers oversee teachers, law enforcement should oversee law enforcement.

In closing, I remind you that those who protect and serve communities across Massachusetts are some of the most sophisticated and educated law enforcement officials in the nation. Let me remind you that in 2015 President Obama recognized the Boston Police Department as one of the best in the nation at community policing. I again implore you to amend and correct S.2800 so as to treat the men and women in law enforcement with the respect and dignity they deserve.

Sincerely,
Jeffrey M Brown

From: MARK GABRIELE <mark.gabriele@comcast.net>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 9:34 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Subject: Pass a strong police accountability bill with key provisions from S.2820

Members of the committee:

It seems our national is finally having a moral reckoning, dealing with the original sins of its creation: black peoples captured and sold into slavery, and native peoples dispossessed of their homelands. Unfortunately, it seems police unions are trying to resist this process. I urge you to pass a strong bill, which preserves the vital reforms in the Senate bill, such as the following:

1. Creating an independent and civilian-majority police certification/decertification body
2. Limiting qualified immunity so that victims of police brutality can sue for civil damages
3. Reducing the school-to-prison pipeline and removing barriers to expungement on juvenile records
4. Establishing a Justice Reinvestment Fund to move money away from policing prisons and into workforce development and education opportunities

Throughout your deliberations, I hope you will feel in your hearts the weight of 400 years of oppression, and the loss of uncounted beautiful lives of color... all sacred in God's eyes.

Thank you,

Mark Gabriele

45 Amy's Way

Wellfleet, MA 02667

From: Jarrod Gobbi <jarrod.gobbi@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 9:33 AM

To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Subject: Opposition to s.2800

To whom it may concern,

My name is Jarrod Gobbi and I live In East Boston. As your constituent, I write to you today to express my staunch opposition to S.2800, a piece of hastily-thrown-together legislation that will hamper law enforcement efforts across the Commonwealth. It robs police officers of the same Constitutional Rights extended to citizens across the nation. It is misguided and wrong.

Like most of my neighbors, I am dismayed at the scarcity of respect and protections extended to police officers in your proposed reforms. While there is always room for improvement in policing, the proposed legislation has far too many flaws. Of the many concerns, three, in particular, stand out and demand immediate attention, modification and/or correction. Those issues are:

(1) Due Process for all police officers: Fair and equitable process under the law. The appeal processes afforded to police officers have been in place for generations. They deserve to maintain the right to appeal given to all of our public servants.

(2) Qualified Immunity: Qualified Immunity does not protect problem police officers. Qualified Immunity is extended to all public employees who act reasonably and in compliance with the rules and regulations of their respective departments, not just police officers. Qualified Immunity protects all public employees, as well as their municipalities, from frivolously unrealistic lawsuits.

(3) POSA Committee: The composition of the POSA Committee must include rank-and-file police officers. If you're going to regulate law enforcement, up to and including termination, you must understand law enforcement. The same way doctors oversee doctors, lawyers oversee lawyers, teachers oversee teachers, law enforcement should oversee law enforcement.

In closing, I remind you that those who protect and serve communities across Massachusetts are some of the most sophisticated and educated law enforcement officials in the nation. Let me remind you that in 2015 President Obama recognized the Boston Police Department as one of the best in the nation at community policing. I again implore you to amend and correct S.2800 so as to treat the men and women in law enforcement with the respect and dignity they deserve.

Sincerely,

Jarrod Gobbi

Sent from my iPhone
From: Jane Fanning <janefanning@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 9:33 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)

Subject: S.2820

Senator Brady,

As your constituent, I write to you today to express my strong opposition to many parts of the recently passed S.2820. I hope that you will join me in prioritizing support for the establishment of a standards and accreditation committee, which includes increased transparency and reporting, as well as strong actions focused on the promotion of diversity and restrictions on excessive force. These goals are attainable and are needed now.

I am, however, concerned at the expansion of this legislation, targeting fundamental protections such as due process and qualified immunity. This bill in its present form is troubling in many ways and will make an already dangerous and difficult job even more dangerous for the men and women in law enforcement who serve our communities every day with honor and courage. Below are just a few areas, among many others, that concern me and warrant your rejection of these components of this bill:

(1)?Due Process for all police officers: Fair and equitable process under the law demands the same rights of appeal afforded to all citizens and fellow public servants. Due process should not be viewed as an arduous impediment, but favored as a bedrock principle of fundamental fairness, procedure and accountability.

(2)?Qualified Immunity: Qualified Immunity does not protect problem police officers. Qualified Immunity is extended to all public employees who act reasonably and in compliance with the rules and regulations of their respective departments, not just police officers. Qualified Immunity protects all public employees, as well as their municipalities, from frivolously lawsuits. This bill removes important liability protections essential for all public servants. Removing qualified immunity protections in this way will open officers, and other public employees to personal liabilities, causing significant financial burdens. This will impede future recruitment in all public fields: police officers, teachers, nurses, fire fighters, corrections officers, etc., as they are all directly affected by qualified immunity protections.

(3)?POSA Committee: The composition of the POSA Committee must include more rank-and-file police officers and experts in the law enforcement field. If you're going to regulate law enforcement, up to and including termination, you must understand law enforcement. The same way doctors oversee doctors, lawyers oversee lawyers, teachers oversee teachers, experts in law enforcement should oversee practitioners in law enforcement.

In closing, I remind you that those who protect and serve communities across Massachusetts are some of the most sophisticated and educated law enforcement officials in the nation. I again implore you to amend and correct S.2820 so as to treat the men and women in law enforcement with the respect and dignity they deserve.

Jane Fanning
46 Arthur Matthew Drive
Hanover Ma

Sent from my iPhone
From: Kevin Hart <hartks@gmail.com>

Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 9:33 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Subject: S.2820

As your constituent, I write to you today to express my strong opposition to many parts of the recently passed S.2820. I hope that you will join me in prioritizing support for the establishment of a standards and accreditation committee, which includes increased transparency and reporting, as well as strong actions focused on the promotion of diversity and restrictions on excessive force. These goals are attainable and are needed now.

I am, however, concerned at the expansion of this legislation, targeting fundamental protections such as due process and qualified immunity. This bill in its present form is troubling in many ways and will make an already dangerous and difficult job even more dangerous for the men and women in law enforcement who serve our communities every day with honor and courage. Below are just a few areas, among many others, that concern me and warrant your rejection of these components of this bill:

(1)?Due Process for all police officers: Fair and equitable process under the law demands the same rights of appeal afforded to all citizens and fellow public servants. Due process should not be viewed as an arduous impediment, but favored as a bedrock principle of fundamental fairness, procedure and accountability.

(2)?Qualified Immunity: Qualified Immunity does not protect problem police officers. Qualified Immunity is extended to all public employees who act reasonably and in compliance with the rules and regulations of their respective departments, not just police officers. Qualified Immunity protects all public employees, as well as their municipalities, from frivolously lawsuits. This bill removes important liability protections essential for all public servants. Removing qualified immunity protections in this way will open officers, and other public employees to personal liabilities, causing significant financial burdens. This will impede future recruitment in all public fields: police officers, teachers, nurses, fire fighters, corrections officers, etc., as they are all directly affected by qualified immunity protections.

(3)?POSA Committee: The composition of the POSA Committee must include more rank-and-file police officers and experts in the law enforcement field. If you're going to regulate law enforcement, up to and including termination, you must understand law enforcement. The same way doctors oversee doctors, lawyers oversee lawyers, teachers oversee teachers, experts in law enforcement should oversee practitioners in law enforcement.

In closing, I remind you that those who protect and serve communities across Massachusetts are some of the most sophisticated and educated law enforcement officials in the nation. I again implore you to amend and correct S.2820 so as to treat the men and women in law enforcement with the respect and dignity they deserve.

Thank you,

Kevin Hart

1026 Brook Rd.

Milton, MA

From: Cj .Bumpus <cjbumpus11@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 9:33 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Subject: Senate bill 2820

Dear Chair Michlewitz and Chair Cronin,

My name is Christopher Bumpus and I live at 13 algerine st Berkley, Massachusetts. I work at MCI-Norfolk and am a Corrections officer 1. As a constituent, I write to express my opposition to Senate Bill 2820. This legislation is detrimental to police and correction officers who work every day to keep the people of the Commonwealth safe. In 2019 the Criminal Justice System went through reform. That reform took several years to develop. I am dismayed in the hastiness that this bill was passed but I welcome the opportunity to tell you how this bill turns its back on the very men and women who serve the public.

Qualified Immunity: Qualified immunity doesn't protect officers who break the law or violate someone's civil rights. Qualified immunity protects officers who did not clearly violate statutory policy or constitutional rights. The erasure of this would open up the flood gates for frivolous lawsuits causing officers to aquire additional insurance and tying up the justice system costing the Commonwealth millions of dollars to process such frivolous lawsuits.

Less Than Lethal Tools: The fact that you want to take away an Officer's use of pepper spray, impact weapons and K9 would leave no other option than to go from yelling "Stop", to hands on tactics and/or using your firearm. We are all for de-escalation but if you take away these tools the amount of injuries and deaths would without a doubt rise.

Civilian Oversight: While we are held to a higher standard than others in the community, to have an oversight committee made of people who have never worn the uniform, including an ex convicted felon is completely unnecessary and irresponsible. When this oversight board hears testimony where are the officer's rights under our collective bargaining agreement? Where are our rights to due process? What is the appeal process? These are things that have never been heard or explained to me. The need for

responsible and qualified individuals on any committee should be first and foremost.

I am asking you to stop and think about the rush to reform police and corrections in such haste. Our officers are some of the best and well-trained officers anywhere. Although, while we are not opposed to getting better, it should be done with dignity and respect for the men and women who serve the Commonwealth. I ask that you think about the police officer you need to keep your streets safe from violence, and don't dismantle proven community policing practices. I would also ask that you think about the correction officer alone in a cell block, surrounded by up to one hundred inmates, not knowing when violence could erupt. I'm asking for your support and ensuring that whatever reform is passed, that you do it responsibly. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Christopher Bumpus

--

Christopher Bumpus
Cjbumpus11@gmail.com
(508)-692-7113
From: Danielle Maynard <dmaynard34@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 9:33 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Subject: Police reform testimony

Good morning,

As your constituent, I write to you today to express my strong opposition to many parts of the recently passed S.2820. I hope that you will join me in prioritizing support for the establishment of a standards and accreditation committee, which includes increased transparency and reporting, as well as strong actions focused on the promotion of diversity and restrictions on excessive force. These goals are attainable and are needed now.

I am, however, concerned at the expansion of this legislation, targeting fundamental protections such as due process and qualified immunity. This bill in its present form is troubling in many ways and will make an already dangerous and difficult job even more dangerous for the men and women in law enforcement who serve our communities every day with honor and courage. Below are just a few areas, among many others, that concern me and warrant your rejection of these components of this bill:

(1)?Due Process for all police officers: Fair and equitable process under the law demands the same rights of appeal afforded to all citizens and fellow public servants. Due process should not be viewed as an arduous impediment, but favored as a bedrock principle of fundamental fairness, procedure and accountability.

(2)?Qualified Immunity: Qualified Immunity does not protect problem police officers. Qualified Immunity is extended to all public employees who act reasonably and in compliance with the rules and regulations of their respective departments, not just police officers. Qualified

Immunity protects all public employees, as well as their municipalities, from frivolous lawsuits. This bill removes important liability protections essential for all public servants. Removing qualified immunity protections in this way will open officers, and other public employees to personal liabilities, causing significant financial burdens. This will impede future recruitment in all public fields: police officers, teachers, nurses, fire fighters, corrections officers, etc., as they are all directly affected by qualified immunity protections.

(3)?POSA Committee: The composition of the POSA Committee must include more rank-and-file police officers and experts in the law enforcement field. If you're going to regulate law enforcement, up to and including termination, you must understand law enforcement. The same way doctors oversee doctors, lawyers oversee lawyers, teachers oversee teachers, experts in law enforcement should oversee practitioners in law enforcement.

In closing, I remind you that those who protect and serve communities across Massachusetts are some of the most sophisticated and educated law enforcement officials in the nation. I again implore you to amend and correct S.2820 so as to treat the men and women in law enforcement with the respect and dignity they deserve.

Danielle Keyes
Belchertown, MA

Sent from my iPhone
From: dorothy hanna <dorothy.hanna@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 9:32 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Subject: Supporting Strong Police Reform

To: Representative Aaron Michlewitz, Chairperson, House Committee on Ways and Means

Representative Claire Cronin, Chairperson, Joint Committee on the Judiciary

Hello, my name is Dorothy Hanna with the Greater Boston Interfaith Organization (GBIO). I live at 17 Wainwright St, Dorchester 02124. I am writing to urge you and the House to pass police reform that includes:

- * Implement Peace Officer Standards & Training with certification
- * Civil service access reform
- * Commission on structural racism
- * Clear statutory limits on police use of force

* Qualified immunity reform

Thank you very much.

Dorothy Hanna

dorothy.hanna@gmail.com

781-859-6134

17 Wainwright St, Dorchester Center, MA 02124

From: Danny McNulty <dtmcnulty12@gmail.com>

Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 9:33 AM

To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)

Subject: Reform Shift Build Testimony

Hello MA House Ways and Means Committee,

As Senate Bill 2800 enters the House Ways and Means, Massachusetts has a unique chance to change Qualified Immunity and start the path towards police accountability. Believe me: I am a unionist, and want to support police as workers for all they help they truly do, but NO worker is extrajudicial. We need this important change to qualified immunity to put us on the path to true racial justice for our communities.

Thank you for your consideration,

Dan McNulty

Resident of Quincy, MA From: Ryan C <rjcl3b@gmail.com>

Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 9:32 AM

To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)

Subject: Police Reform Bill S 2800

To the Representation of the Commonwealth,

It seems as this Police Reform Bill affects more than reforming police interaction with the public. As this bill does not in fact deliberately improve the quality of training officers will receive. Also the fact of adding an additional certification to become a police officer does not help the situation of police interaction with the public. Instead this bill seeks to charge police with the full responsibility of protecting the public without receiving any support in return. Without protection from civil lawsuits police officers cannot in good faith carry out their duties to protect the public. Also, with even more restrictions for police officers in less than lethal options, you are only making

situations more unsafe for the general public by limiting what can and cannot be used in a life and death situation.

This bill honestly sounds like a room full of people who have never policed a thing in their lives came up with a way to increase their voting platform by sowing racial and economic discord into the public. With most Representatives in this state having an anti police track record, it is no surprise this vote was pushed through easily.

Which brings me to this process. How on earth do you pass a bill that has such legal ramifications for not just police officers and the general public, but all public officials to include teachers, firefighters, and so on with no public testimony? And you can say how this needed to be quick because of George Floyd and racism was afoot, or any little reason. It doesn't matter, the representation of Massachusetts has clearly shown that they will put a bill up to vote without at least hearing anyone speak on the matter, TO INCLUDE BLACK POLICE OFFICERS. But no, our representatives couldn't even get that right.

I must say thank you very much for failing the people of Massachusetts. You are encouraging entitlement, anarchy, and the liquidation of the core values that made Massachusetts the spirit of America. It is troubling to think of the wars that were fought since the inception of this nation to prevent the very thing this bill is looking to accomplish.

No one is more free or more safe as a result of this bill. In fact it is quite the opposite. Most people I talk to about this bill find it comical that you can sue a police officer in a civil case, over almost anything. However, there is a different tone when I remind them that there is less liability for a police officer to simply do nothing and watch violent crime take place. I wonder if our teachers would be willing to discipline unruly children with the thought of potentially being sued. I know my mother had threatened lawsuits to teachers, and principals. It's an entirely different thing where this is nothing to stop someone suing you out of spite. What do you think will happen to test scores? Maybe more houses will get burned down because firefighters can be sued after carrying someone out of a burning house. Maybe police officers back from intervening in a violent crime. As a result, we will become uneducated, poor mannered, constituents of an unsafe society where decisions are made for the people without any form of consideration or public testimony. George Floyd didn't die in Massachusetts. We do not have a public immunity problem, we have a problem with legislators who think they can pass any bill they want with no future ramifications. So in short I DO NOT support this bill at all.

Sincerely,

A veteran

From: frabittz@aol.com

Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 9:33 AM

To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)

Subject: Reject Senate Policing bill SB 2820

Dear Members of the Massachusetts House of Representatives:

I am writing to ask you to reject the Policing Bill, SB 2820. It endangers public safety, removes important protections for police, and creates a

commission to study and make recommendations regarding policing with a lopsided membership.

Section 49 alters our education laws to prohibit school officials from reporting immigration or citizenship status to any law enforcement authority or GANG MEMBERSHIP.

To think that school authorities would be prohibited from telling the police that a student might be a member of MS-13 or any other dangerous gang is extremely dangerous. Section 49 should be eliminated.

SB 2820 endangers our police by dramatically watering down "qualified immunity" in Section 10. This provision should be eliminated.

Section 52 should also be eliminated as it hinders an officer's ability to protect our roadways as well as him- or herself by not allowing them to ask someone who they have stopped about their immigration or citizenship status.

Section 63 creates a fifteen-member commission to make recommendations on policing. But, only 3 of the 15 are associated with policing. It should have more equal representation of law enforcement officers. I oppose SB 2820, and at a minimum, it should specifically eliminate any provisions similar to sections 10, 49, 52, and amend Section 63 to have more police representation.

Sincerely, Keith Howe

Sent from my iPhone
From: Jim Wironen <jimw98@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 9:32 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Subject: S.2820

Chair Aaron Michlewitz and Chair Claire Cronin,

?I am a resident of Templeton and a police officer for 9 years in the town of Winchendon. S2820 is causing major concern for me and my family. This will remove the protections that allow me to do my job without the worry of personally being targeted by baseless lawsuits. Over the last nine years I have seen law enforce officers become more and more hesitant to take the necessary actions to do their job safely because of fear that their leaders will not back them when needed if their actions would cause the suspect harm. This has resulted in several officers being harmed and risking their safety while doing their job because of fear of what could happen to them just because they are doing their job. This bill will just add to their hesitation while doing their job further increasing their risk of being injured in the line of duty. I have personally considered my options as an officer as I am no longer willing to put my families lively hood at risk because leadership no longer supports law enforcement and is willing to put criminals ahead of those who protect the

citizens. The last 9 years I have seen the state of Massachusetts as one of the leading states in law enforcement. There are fewer use of force cases and fewer law enforcement Officer deaths here because we are better trained and better educated. With the passing of S2800 I fear there will be a mass exodus of experienced and quality officers no longer willing to work under the risk of losing it all for their family. I also fear the number of officers needed to backfill that number of officers leaving will be filled with sub par candidates as it is already hard finding a few officers qualified. No one will want to be an officer if they are not supported by their leaders. Sorry for the crude email as I am currently on vacation and have to use my phone. I have spent the last week on vacation watching S2800 be pushed through without proper debate or thought. The idea of the bill is great, more training and accountability is always supported but risking Law enforcements safety for a political statement is unacceptable. Please DO NOT PASS this. Thank you for your time reading this.

James Wironen

53 Brooks Rd Templeton MA 01468
978-790-8181

Sent from my iPhone

From: Derek Tronca <rsvlk@aol.com>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 9:32 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Cc: ctelles@partners.org
Subject: S.2820

As your constituent, I write to you today to express my strong opposition to many parts of the recently passed S.2820. I hope that you will join me in prioritizing support for the establishment of a standards and accreditation committee, which includes increased transparency and reporting, as well as strong actions focused on the promotion of diversity and restrictions on excessive force. These goals are attainable and are needed now.

I am, however, concerned at the expansion of this legislation, targeting fundamental protections such as due process and qualified immunity. This bill in its present form is troubling in many ways and will make an already dangerous and difficult job even more dangerous for the men and women in law enforcement who serve our communities every day with honor and courage. Below are just a few areas, among many others, that concern me and warrant your rejection of these components of this bill:

(1)?Due Process for all police officers: Fair and equitable process under the law demands the same rights of appeal afforded to all citizens and fellow public servants. Due process should not be viewed as an arduous impediment, but favored as a bedrock principle of fundamental fairness, procedure and accountability.

(2)?Qualified Immunity: Qualified Immunity does not protect problem police officers. Qualified Immunity is extended to all public employees who act reasonably and in compliance with the rules and regulations of their respective departments, not just police officers. Qualified

Immunity protects all public employees, as well as their municipalities, from frivolously lawsuits. This bill removes important liability protections essential for all public servants. Removing qualified immunity protections in this way will open officers, and other public employees to personal liabilities, causing significant financial burdens. This will impede future recruitment in all public fields: police officers, teachers, nurses, fire fighters, corrections officers, etc., as they are all directly affected by qualified immunity protections.

(3)?POSA Committee: The composition of the POSA Committee must include more rank-and-file police officers and experts in the law enforcement field. If you're going to regulate law enforcement, up to and including termination, you must understand law enforcement. The same way doctors oversee doctors, lawyers oversee lawyers, teachers oversee teachers, experts in law enforcement should oversee practitioners in law enforcement.

In closing, I remind you that those who protect and serve communities across Massachusetts are some of the most sophisticated and educated law enforcement officials in the nation. I again implore you to amend and correct S.2820 so as to treat the men and women in law enforcement with the respect and dignity they deserve.

Thank you,

Derek Tronca
46 Wyman Road
Abington MA
02351

Sent from AOL Mobile Mail

Get the new AOL app: mail.mobile.aol.com

<[From: Lauren R <lola21r@msn.com>](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=http-3A__mail.mobile.aol.com&d=DwMFaQ&c=lDF7oMaPKXpkYvev9V-fVahWL0QWnGCCAfCDz1Bns_w&r=uoevGInjCfTlguYncQubxpi5R6db_gq1YmKr0SCk2EnIiuk13zIsl6rchf_GkGDD&m=zf041qC0Tpeg2W2kSDQKWi_u7FjYxcZ5stt5FlUvVd8&s=XA2Icq0VKFR3J__pWl9PSYolPACSQ388Ht5M3l5CEi4&e=></p></div><div data-bbox=)

Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 9:32 AM

To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)

Subject: Single Mom - 2 minute read

Good morning,

I won't take up more than 2 minutes of your time.

My name is Lauren Voellings. I'm a single mother of a beautiful 4-year old girl named Ava.

I'm her primary caretaker and the love of her life.

I'm also a police officer, a Sergeant in Worcester.

While I realize that it's often hard to associate an actual person to the title of Police Officer, I wanted to share with you the type of person that is being affected by the Police Reform bill. It's me. It's a mom. A daughter. A well-intentioned, hard-working person who goes to work every day to do good for the community.

The senate bill that was recently passed was completely anti-labor legislation. It removes our rights to due process, collective bargaining & inserts a board that has no training, experience or background in law enforcement.

While I do empathize with the unfortunate and unjust situations that have unfolded in our country, that isn't Massachusetts, that isn't the men and women of the police departments in Massachusetts, and that certainly isn't me.

This reform bill is not taking into account the real people, IN THE STATE OF MASSACHUSETTS, who truly do a mostly thankless job, but continue to do it with the very well-intentions of helping people, saving people, and keeping people safe in our communities. Please think of me, and the thousands of other "real people", that this bill will affect in a very negative, unfair, and action-limiting way. We need you to stand up for us, be fair, and remember the faces and families behind the uniform who truly need your support right now.

Thank you

Respectfully,
Lauren Voellings
774-670-8695
From: Center Makor <centermakor@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 9:32 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Subject: Testimony

Dear Representatives,

I live in Stoughton, MA. It came to my attention that last night the MA Senate passed the bill to end qualified immunity for police officers. I am appalled that the legislature of such importance was passed without a public hearing.

The very idea that such a thing as removing qualified immunity from police can be seriously proposed, let alone voted for 30 to 7, seemed totally absurd just a few months ago. Qualified immunity of elected officials and members of the law enforcement community is the bedrock principle of any government. Without it, no government institution would be able to function. And policemen, due to the very nature of their work, are the most vulnerable group.

This shameful legislation is unfair, immoral, and harmful to the extreme, especially to the people of color, whom it's supposedly designed to help - this group needs strong law enforcement and police protection more than anybody. By taking away qualified immunity from police the Commonwealth of Massachusetts essentially declares itself non-governable territory. Scores of policemen will retire, which is already happening. And nobody will be interested in joining the police force - the group that not only is unjustly vilified but now even deprived of any legislative protection.

A horrible death happened in Minnesota and everybody condemned it. But why the whole profession of policemen is punished for that? I talked to Brookline police and there has been not a single incident of police brutality for the years of existence of Brookline police. Massachusetts police in general is an exemplary organization. Why are you in such a hurry of changing the law? This new law will harm not only police but the whole population of Massachusetts.

In the strongest possible terms, I urge you to keep qualified immunity for MA police officers intact.

Vladimir Foygelman,
58 Rosewood Dr.
Stoughton, MA

From: Lynn Mason-Small <lmason72@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 9:32 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU); Cyr, Julian (SEN)
Subject: S.2820

My name is Lynn Mason-Small and I live at 50 Wolfson Road, South Yarmouth, MA 02664. I write to you today to express staunch opposition to S.2820.

2 years ago Sean Gannon, a hometown police officer, was brutally murdered in our community. Those same politicians, who mourned alongside his grieving widow and his parents- vowing more protection for officers - are now quickly throwing together legislation that will take away the rights of those who protect us each and every day. I am strongly in favor of police reform, but only when well thought out by clear minds. Not minds reacting to our very current state we find ourselves in. Reactionary legislation is absurd.

I am dismayed at the scarcity of respect and protections extended to police officers in your proposed reforms. While there is always room for

improvement in policing, the proposed legislation has far too many flaws. Of the many concerns, three, in particular, stand out and demand immediate attention, modification and/or correction. Those issues are:

(1) Due Process for all police officers: Fair and equitable process under the law. The appeal processes afforded to police officers have been in place for generations. They deserve to maintain the right to appeal given to all of our public servants.

(2) Qualified Immunity: Qualified Immunity does not protect problem police officers. Qualified Immunity is extended to all public employees who act reasonably and in compliance with the rules and regulations of their respective departments, not just police officers. Qualified Immunity protects all public employees, as well as their municipalities, from frivolously unrealistic lawsuits. I cannot imagine in our overly litigious world we live in, that this makes sense in any fashion.

(3) POSA Committee: The composition of the POSA Committee must include rank-and-file police officers. If you're going to regulate law enforcement, up to and including termination, you must understand law enforcement. The same way doctors oversee doctors, lawyers oversee lawyers, teachers oversee teachers, law enforcement should oversee law enforcement.

In closing, I ask you to amend and correct S.2820 so as to treat the men and women in law enforcement with the respect and dignity they deserve.

Sincerely,

Lynn Mason-Small

From: DPS <middrosebud@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 9:32 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Cc: Tarr, Bruce E. (SEN)
Subject: S2820 Please DO NOT pass this reform

S2820

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

Chair Aaron Michlewitz and Chair Claire Cronin

I am rushing to write before the narrow window for comments closes, to express my deep concern at the content of the bill S2800, now called S2820. I have read it and find numerous aspects of it to be of concern. In summary I would point to the power of this commission to advise, oversee, monitor, appoint, receive settlements for cases, determine and instruct according to a framework of racial equality which is not stated. This gives great power to this permanent commission to oversee all government activity, yet they have no governing oversight. They can solicit funding as well making them subject to influence and cronyism. Is there any other government commission that fundraises? And also receives settlement payments for cases? Is this not a conflict of interest for real justice?

They are given offices and access to information citizens are not. Police officers will have no privacy of information if they are investigation. This treats our law enforcement as sub citizens. Who is going to oversee the selection of consultants and the payment for such? There is not equity in justice if there is no balance. I am all for some aspect of police reform through training and support. But to allow this organization such power to control information, records, training requirements and oversight of training...there is too much power given to this group, as a knee jerk reaction to the current situation. There should at least be some representative of the police force on the commission where their voice is heard and true collaborative reform could happen. Is the history of slavery in US really what's important here? There are many cops of color. What is the real goal in this legislation? To push a narrative or to move forward as MLK would do for equal justice for all?

It gags school officials from reporting immigration status and whether a student is a member of a gang as dangerous as MS-13. It is involved in creating education for students. This bill is hurried through, passed in the darkness of the night and now being pushed through to vote. Reminds me of Nancy Pelosi's "let's pass the bill and read it later" mentality. This bill is fraught with power transfer and tentacles of control into too many areas not related to real reform.

Please REJECT this bill.

Sincerely,
Deb Safford
Hamilton MA
From: crystal patsavos <cpatsavos1@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 9:32 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)

Subject: Police Reform Bill S.2800/2820

To whom it may concern,

Below is a letter I sent to the senators regarding the hastily put together Bill S.2800, now S2820. I, as well as many others are disappointed to say the least, with our elected officials who are trying to rush a bill into law for political reasons with blatant disregard for the safety of the majority of citizens in the state of Massachusetts. Just over a month ago law enforcement officers were regarded as heroes during the surge of Covid-19 here in Mass., many participating in birthday car parades for children unable to celebrate in normal fashion. They are still heroes, that hasn't changed. We should be doing MORE to protect not only law enforcement, but all of our municipal workers. We are watching the detrimental effects of giving more rights to lawbreakers and criminals than to those brave enough to uphold the law. Crime and violence is rapidly increasing throughout the country and especially in our major cities. Crime has been at multi - decade lows but that is now reversing at record pace. Boston will no doubt experience this extreme spike in crime if this bill is passed as is. What I know is that 5 other officers were shot in the past few years in the Southshore/Cape area alone; two of which paid the ultimate sacrifice with their lives; Officer Gannon and Officer Chesna and the latter because he hesitated taking necessary actions to stop the assailant who stole his gun and shot him. This bill will only lead to more of these dangerous situations. Cops will no longer be willing to take the risks necessary to do their jobs in fear of being persecuted for doing so. Policing will be reactive, not proactive as it has been. To my knowledge only one department- Springfield in a total of 357, has been investigated for any wrongdoing. This is not systemic. Please protect the rights of our public servants. This bill should not be passed without more careful consideration just to meet an unrealistic deadline or to satisfy a political agenda. It would be irresponsible and dangerous.

Respectfully,

Crystal Patsavos

<x-apple-data-detectors://0/1> <x-apple-data-detectors://0/1> <x-apple-data-detectors://0/1> <x-apple-data-detectors://0/1> <x-apple-data-detectors://0/1> 14 Madison Drive <x-apple-data-detectors://0/1> East Sandwich, Ma. <x-apple-data-detectors://0/1>

Dear Legislator,

I'm writing in regards to the S.2800 Police Reform Bill currently being discussed. I am the wife of Dennis, Ma. police sergeant Nicholas Patsavos who was a recipient of the George L. Hanna Award for saving the life of a complete stranger while risking his own without hesitation. He has been an officer for over 20 years serving the community with compassion and the utmost respect for all citizens regardless of who they are. The VAST majority of police officers are kind, decent people who enter the profession to SAVE lives, NOT take them. For these brave men and women it is a calling and a job few are able to do as most of us are incapable of the sacrifices they make, and the risks they face daily. I have never been more disturbed by the vilification and demoralization of these heroes today. All should not be punished for the poor actions of very few. For the many "hats" they wear on any given shift - a variety of emergencies and tragedies they witness daily, we ask and expect a lot from them. They too are only human. Perfection at all times for any human being

is not attainable yet some expect this from our officers. They deserve the respect and same constitutional rights that every citizen in the nation is entitled to. Though some form of police reform may be necessary - regardless of what any of you claim , this bill is being rushed and the consequences are not being fully thought through. Particularly, in regards to Qualified Immunity, which protects them from frivolous lawsuits when it is clear they are doing their jobs properly and in good faith acting reasonably in the eyes of the law. This does not protect those problem officers who don't act appropriately. Officers are in harms way at any given time and sometimes have to make life altering decisions that most of us can't even fathom in a matter of seconds. If they truly feel their life is in danger they should certainly have the right to protect it. They didn't sign up for the job to not have that right. Their loved ones constantly live in fear that one of these days they won't return home safely. I have two children and their dad is their hero. The choice they are left with in the event of a legitimate threat to their well being is either be killed or defend yourself and risk losing everything/possibly go to jail- just for doing the job we ask of them. Without qualified immunity officers are more at risk as well as every citizen because they won't risk taking the necessary measures to do their job effectively for fear of persecution for doing so. This is just wrong. I do not feel the majority of the public supports this, and far too many aren't even aware of this being pushed along by legislators at all. Laws and Bills need to protect EVERY citizen, police included. Most officers go way above and beyond the call of duty. They help citizens with so many different acts of kindness, I've seen them do so- whether it's a meal for the homeless, shoveling a driveway for an elderly individual, giving a ride to someone in need, or emotional support to someone suffering loss and tragedy; not to mention rushing to aid anyone in need anywhere when off duty. My own husband has done so many times over the years because that's just what they do. They are our first line of protection always running towards the dangers the rest of us run away from. How quickly we forget the collapse of the Twin Towers/9-11, the marathon bombing, and countless other tragedies they've dealt with across this nation. Always in harms way rushing in to defend all of us- strangers of all colors. They deserve the same- to be protected and defended by every one of us. It is not fair for those who don't walk in their shoes to make decisions they are not experts on which will make it difficult for them to do their job. And that's if they even stick around long enough as many won't and are walking away across the country. Can't say I blame them. It will no longer be worth the risk for many of them. Please consider all of this to make the best possible informed decisions for ALL. I don't want to live in a world without police and one none of us are safe in. The treatment of police in general has been shameful and disgraceful. Those who decide to break the law should be held accountable on BOTH sides- law enforcement as well as the law breaker. Respectfully,
Crystal Patsavos, concerned citizen and police wife

Sent from my iPhone
From: Andrew Rezendes <andrew.rezendes@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 9:32 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Subject: testimony S2820

I am a Police Officer and I am writing to you regarding bill S2820, which I do not support. These opinions are of my own and do not reflect on my employer. I work for a Community College in Boston. There I can interact with people in positive ways. I can help people make the right choices and direct them away from the criminal justice system. However, my hands will be tied if bill S2820 is passed. Most importantly if qualified immunity is removed.

If qualified immunity is removed law enforcement in Massachusetts will struggle to move forward. Police Officers will leave the profession in such massive numbers it will take years to recover. I fear that Officers that do stay will be under qualified, overwhelmed and only looking for a paycheck. This will lead to long wait times for calls of service. Qualified immunity does not protect that bad Officers out there, it protects good Officers who are doing the right thing and acting in good faith.

If qualified immunity is removed what worries me for example is a scenario like this. I go to a call for a car accident, upon arrival I notice a person trapped in the car that is on its side and its on fire. I pull the person out and they break their arm in the process. The insurance company sues me for their medical bills to reduce their payout to this person.

In conclusion I do not support this bill as it stands and there must be changes done before I can support it. I know if it passes as it stands, I will have to consider and think deep about looking for a new career that won't have these same negative impacts on my family.

Respectfully,

Andrew Rezendes

Police Officer: Bunker Hill Community College

Cell: 401-662-7021

From: Julia Deter <jfiske42@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 9:31 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Subject: Pass SB.2800, Reform, Shift, Build Act

Dear Chairman Aaron Michlewitz & Co-chair Rep. Claire Cronin:

My name is Julia Fiske. I am a resident of Maynard, MA and a member of March like a Mother: for Black Lives. I am writing this virtual testimony to urge you to pass SB.2800 the Reform, Shift, Build Act in its entirety. It is the minimum and the bill must leave the legislature in its entirety.

This bill bans chokeholds, promotes de-escalation tactics, certifies police officers, prohibits the use of facial recognition, limits qualified

immunity for police, and redirects money from policing to community investment.

I urge you to ensure that all aspects of this bill are intact. We are in a historical moment and this bill ensures that we in Massachusetts meet the demand of this movement.

Thank you for your consideration of your request to give SB.2800 a favorable report.

Sincerely,

Julia Fiske
19 Tobin Dr, Maynard, MA 01754

March like a Mother: for Black Lives
--

Julia Deter
Director | Choreographer | Educator

She | Her
646-281-5656

Something Rotten: <https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__theumbrellaarts.org_production_something-2Drotten&d=DwMFaQ&c=lDF7oMaPKXpkYvev9V-fVahWL0QWnGCCAfCDz1Bns_w&r=uoevGInjCfTlguYncQubxpi5R6db_gq1YmKr0SCk2EnIiuk13zIs16rchf_GkGDD&m=y6NYVvlUEMDYHFFSs9qrRpoHunT54-8yAnIYGZvu1G0&s=_SjvXCT9lji87tG8kk8oQEKrbW7SylI2s1wpGsrhEuw&e=>> Oct. 30-Nov. 22, 2020
War Paint, <https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__theumbrellaarts.org_production_war-2Dpaint&d=DwMFaQ&c=lDF7oMaPKXpkYvev9V-fVahWL0QWnGCCAfCDz1Bns_w&r=uoevGInjCfTlguYncQubxpi5R6db_gq1YmKr0SCk2EnIiuk13zIs16rchf_GkGDD&m=y6NYVvlUEMDYHFFSs9qrRpoHunT54-8yAnIYGZvu1G0&s=ZWxKr9UZCeFGVnJyDfiz3wN7PV5zuIr1n13IXl-TnLQ&e=>>
RESCHEDULED: Feb. 26-March 21, 2021

From: Eric Desrochers <EDesro322@hotmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 9:31 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Subject: Comment on Police Reform Bill

Honorable State Representatives

As your constituent, I write to you today to express my strong opposition to many parts of the recently passed S.2820. I hope that you will join me

in prioritizing support for the establishment of a standards and accreditation committee, which includes increased transparency and reporting, as well as strong actions focused on the promotion of diversity and restrictions on excessive force. These goals are attainable and are needed now.

I am, however, concerned at the expansion of this legislation, targeting fundamental protections such as due process and qualified immunity. This bill in its present form is troubling in many ways and will make an already dangerous and difficult job even more dangerous for the men and women in law enforcement who serve our communities every day with honor and courage. Below are just a few areas, among many others, that concern me and warrant your rejection of these components of this bill:

(1) Due Process for all police officers: Fair and equitable process under the law demands the same rights of appeal afforded to all citizens and fellow public servants. Due process should not be viewed as an arduous impediment, but favored as a bedrock principle of fundamental fairness, procedure and accountability.

(2) Qualified Immunity: Qualified Immunity does not protect problem police officers. Qualified Immunity is extended to all public employees who act reasonably and in compliance with the rules and regulations of their respective departments, not just police officers. Qualified Immunity protects all public employees, as well as their municipalities, from frivolously lawsuits. This bill removes important liability protections essential for all public servants. Removing qualified immunity protections in this way will open officers, and other public employees to personal liabilities, causing significant financial burdens. This will impede future recruitment in all public fields: police officers, teachers, nurses, fire fighters, corrections officers, etc., as they are all directly affected by qualified immunity protections.

(3) POSA Committee: The composition of the POSA Committee must include more rank-and-file police officers and experts in the law enforcement field. If you're going to regulate law enforcement, up to and including termination, you must understand law enforcement. The same way doctors oversee doctors, lawyers oversee lawyers, teachers oversee teachers, experts in law enforcement should oversee practitioners in law enforcement.

In closing, I remind you that those who protect and serve communities across Massachusetts are some of the most sophisticated and educated law enforcement officials in the nation. I again implore you to amend and

correct S.2820 so as to treat the men and women in law enforcement with the respect and dignity they deserve.

Thank you,

Eric Desrochers

435 Pleasant St, Bridgewater

EDesro322@hotmail.com

Sent from Mail <https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__go.microsoft.com_fwlink_-3FLinkId-3D550986&d=DwMF-g&c=1DF7oMaPKXpkYvev9V-fVahWL0QWnGCCAfCDz1Bns_w&r=uoevGInjCfTlguYncQubxpi5R6db_gq1YmKr0SCk2EnIiuk13zIs16rchf_GkGDD&m=oiivvPv3EJ6bdTq0iOjpVEPOxrVYUG3QMYRmalL9mrjI&s=J3ep_QRfzGjpgDiccnpPPJ1n_P199HbC_-z5dLQQk6Q&e=> for Windows 10

From: Jennifer Concannon <jennifer.concannon@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 9:29 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Subject: S.2820

As your constituent, I write to you today to express my strong opposition to many parts of the recently passed S.2820. I hope that you will join me in prioritizing support for the establishment of a standards and accreditation committee, which includes increased transparency and reporting, as well as strong actions focused on the promotion of diversity and restrictions on excessive force. These goals are attainable and are needed now.

I am, however, concerned at the expansion of this legislation, targeting fundamental protections such as due process and qualified immunity. This bill in its present form is troubling in many ways and will make an already dangerous and difficult job even more dangerous for the men and women in law enforcement who serve our communities every day with honor and courage. Below are just a few areas, among many others, that concern me and warrant your rejection of these components of this bill:

(1) Due Process for all police officers: Fair and equitable process under the law demands the same rights of appeal afforded to all citizens and fellow public servants. Due process should not be viewed as

an arduous impediment, but favored as a bedrock principle of fundamental fairness, procedure and accountability.

(2) Qualified Immunity: Qualified Immunity does not protect problem police officers. Qualified Immunity is extended to all public employees who act reasonably and in compliance with the rules and regulations of their respective departments, not just police officers. Qualified Immunity protects all public employees, as well as their municipalities, from frivolously lawsuits. This bill removes important liability protections essential for all public servants. Removing qualified immunity protections in this way will open officers, and other public employees to personal liabilities, causing significant financial burdens. This will impede future recruitment in all public fields: police officers, teachers, nurses, fire fighters, corrections officers, etc., as they are all directly affected by qualified immunity protections.

(3) POSA Committee: The composition of the POSA Committee must include more rank-and-file police officers and experts in the law enforcement field. If you're going to regulate law enforcement, up to and including termination, you must understand law enforcement. The same way doctors oversee doctors, lawyers oversee lawyers, teachers oversee teachers, experts in law enforcement should oversee practitioners in law enforcement.

In closing, I remind you that those who protect and serve communities across Massachusetts are some of the most sophisticated and educated law enforcement officials in the nation. I again implore you to amend and correct S.2820 so as to treat the men and women in law enforcement with the respect and dignity they deserve.

Thank you,

Jennifer Concannon/jennifer.concannon@gmail.com

From: jeff saunders <jas2924@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 9:31 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Subject: S.2820

As your constituent, I write to you today to express my strong opposition to many parts of the recently passed S.2820. I hope that you will join me in prioritizing support for the establishment of a standards and accreditation committee, which includes increased transparency and reporting, as well as strong actions focused on the promotion of diversity and restrictions on excessive force. These goals are attainable and are needed now.

I am, however, concerned at the expansion of this legislation, targeting fundamental protections such as due process and qualified immunity. This bill in its present form is troubling in many ways and will make an already dangerous and difficult job even more dangerous for the men and women in law enforcement who serve our communities every day with honor and courage. Below are just a few areas, among many others, that concern me and warrant your rejection of these components of this bill:

(1)?Due Process for all police officers: Fair and equitable process under the law demands the same rights of appeal afforded to all citizens and fellow public servants. Due process should not be viewed as an arduous impediment, but favored as a bedrock principle of fundamental fairness, procedure and accountability.

(2)?Qualified Immunity: Qualified Immunity does not protect problem police officers. Qualified Immunity is extended to all public employees who act reasonably and in compliance with the rules and regulations of their respective departments, not just police officers. Qualified Immunity protects all public employees, as well as their municipalities, from frivolously lawsuits. This bill removes important liability protections essential for all public servants. Removing qualified immunity protections in this way will open officers, and other public employees to personal liabilities, causing significant financial burdens. This will impede future recruitment in all public fields: police officers, teachers, nurses, fire fighters, corrections officers, etc., as they are all directly affected by qualified immunity protections.

(3)?POSA Committee: The composition of the POSA Committee must include more rank-and-file police officers and experts in the law enforcement field. If you're going to regulate law enforcement, up to and including termination, you must understand law enforcement. The same way doctors oversee doctors, lawyers oversee lawyers, teachers oversee teachers, experts in law enforcement should oversee practitioners in law enforcement.

In closing, I remind you that those who protect and serve communities across Massachusetts are some of the most sophisticated and educated law enforcement officials in the nation. I again implore you to amend and correct S.2820 so as to treat the men and women in law enforcement with the respect and dignity they deserve.

Thank you,

Jeff Saunders, 20 Longmeadow Road, Tewksbury, 6174389168

From: Cheryl Clark Vermeulen <cclarkpoet@comcast.net>

Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 9:31 AM

To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)

Subject: Pass SB.2800, Reform, Shift, Build Act

Dear Chairman Aaron Michlewitz & Co-chair Rep. Claire Cronin:

My name is Cheryl Clark. I am a resident of Jamaica Plain (Suffolk County). I am writing this virtual testimony to urge you to pass SB.2800 the Reform, Shift, Build Act in its entirety. It is the minimum and the bill must leave the legislature in its entirety.

I have been disgusted by witnessing police brutality, particularly the inability to deescalate situations, use unnecessary force, and not to speak to the true humanity of all people.

This bill bans chokeholds, promotes de-escalation tactics, certifies police officers, prohibits the use of facial recognition, limits qualified immunity for police, and redirects money from policing to community investment.

I urge you to ensure that all aspects of this bill are intact. We are in a historical moment and this bill ensures that we in Massachusetts meet the demand of this movement.

Thank you for your consideration of your request to give SB.2800 a favorable report.

Sincerely,

Cheryl Clark
18 Kingsboro Park
Jamaica Plain, MA

From: Gideon Emmanuel <gideon.m.emmanuel@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 9:30 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Subject: Support for S.2820

Dear Chair Michlewitz, Chair Cronin, and members of the House Ways & Means and Judiciary Committees,

I'm writing in favor of S.2820, to bring badly needed reform to our criminal justice system. I urge you to work as swiftly as possible to pass this bill into law and strengthen it.

I believe the final bill should eliminate qualified immunity, introduce strong standards for decertifying problem officers, and completely ban tear gas, chokeholds, and no-knock raids like the one that killed Breonna Taylor.

This is the time to act and make our state into a shining beacon of justice and peace.

Sincerely,

Gideon Emmanuel, Watertown

From: Rebecca <rebeccaagui08@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 9:30 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Subject: I am a Hispanic female police officer

I am a 30 year Hispanic female police officer in Worcester and I'm extremely concerned with this new bill. It removes the right for due process, collective bargaining and inserts a board with no training, experience or background in law enforcement.

I'm proud to say that I work with an overwhelming amount of great police officers who are professional, kind, honest and caring. I back officers in my city and state because I HAVE PERSONALLY WITNESSED for the past 7 years as an officer, the overwhelming professionalism my fellow officers show on a daily basis. Officers who are NOT racist, unjust or violent people. To allow this bill to pass is a total betrayal towards me (a minority female officer) and my fellow officers who consistently put our lives on the line for our City.

We are not the issue. Do not categorize us with what is happening in different states and allow us to continue to do our job safely.

I want to go home to my son every night and be protected against vindictive people who have no regards or respect for the law and law obeying citizens.

PLEASE VOTE NO!!!

Sincerely,

A mom and police officer.

From: Klucznik, Keith <KlucznikK@worcesterma.gov>

Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 9:30 AM

To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)

Subject: S.2820 Bill Testimony

To Whom It May Concern,

I am reaching out to you today in regards to the proposed S.2820 bill. My name is Keith Klucznik and I have been a Worcester Police Officer for over four years now. I have taken pride in serving, protecting, and patrolling the neighborhoods of this great city I grew up in. Every day I enjoy putting on my uniform, getting in my cruiser, and interacting with the community. However, after reviewing the proposed bill, specifically the sections that involve Qualified Immunity, Collective Bargaining and Due Process, and the POSAC board, I am nervous as to how my career will be drastically affected.

I personally believe that these new proposals will make the job of a police officer extremely difficult and dangerous. Police Officers face dangerous and deadly situations constantly where split-second decisions need to be made in order to protect their own lives along with the lives of the citizens that call for our help. I believe that this new bill will cause myself and other officers to second guess our decision making in these dangerous situations. This brief pause in these situations can have deadly consequences for the lives of both Police Officers and citizens. I personally have had knives, machetes, and other weapons pulled on me while on calls in the city of Worcester. Just last night, July 16, 2020 I responded to two shootings, in which at one of them a two-year old female was struck by a piece of shrapnel in the leg. I am worried that this bill does not protect the rights of Police Officers, and we will not be able to

perform our duties to the full potential. Officers will be concerned that they will suffer consequences where they would lose their jobs, houses, families, and even their own lives.

In regards to "Qualified Immunity," I believe that Police Officers will not be able to fully perform their duties in volatile situations. It will be difficult to act knowing that there is no protection for your actions under the Good Faith Doctrine. I would be fearful that if something were to happen when I was attempting to save a life or apprehend a violent criminal, that I could be sued and lose my job. Furthermore, having those actions judged by the proposed make up of the POSAC board makes me even more nervous. It is difficult to understand the stress and danger that goes into this profession if you have never been in these dangerous situations before. I would not feel that my career is safe with this proposed bill.

I write this e-mail to you today to urge you to strongly reconsider the passing of this S.2820 Bill. Thank you for your time and consideration in reading my testimony.

Regards,

Officer Keith Klucznik

Worcester Police Department

9-11 Lincoln Square, Worcester, MA

Klucznikk@worcesterma.gov

(508)-769-9454

Sent from my iPhone

From: Lizbeth Ginsburg <user@votervoice.net>

Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 9:26 AM

To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)

Subject: Pass a Strong Police Accountability Bill with Key Provisions from S.2820

Dear Chairs HWM & Judiciary,

I urge you to pass legislation that establishes real oversight and accountability for police.

Our law enforcement system is rife with systemic racism that manifests in poignant police murders of unarmed black people, brutality and excessive use of force, unlawful arrests, and unnecessary police contact. The House of Representatives and Senate should ultimately pass a bill that ends qualified immunity in most instances, reduces and oversees police use of force, removes police from schools, expands juvenile expungement, and establishes funds to improve re-entry from incarceration.

The shielding of law enforcement from accountability for violating people's rights through qualified immunity is unacceptable and irresponsible. Police should be held to professionalism standards that limit misconduct similar to doctors or lawyers, who cannot commit malpractice with impunity. Additionally, we need to stop surveilling juveniles with police in schools, collect data, and let young people expunge records related to mistakes they made as a child. If we invest in communities of color and hold police accountable for their misuse of power, then we will have safer communities, less crime, and more respect for the justice system.

This is an urgent matter. Please pass a bill that includes at a minimum the provisions of the senate bill.

Sincerely,

Lizbeth Ginsburg
17 Bay State Ave Apt 2
Somerville, MA 02144
lizbeth_ginsburg@hotmail.com

From: Cynthia MacDonald Andrade <maccind@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 9:30 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Subject: S2820

As your constituent, I write to you today to express my strong opposition to many parts of the recently passed S.2820. I hope that you will join me in prioritizing support for the establishment of a standards and accreditation committee, which includes increased transparency and reporting, as well as strong actions focused on the promotion of diversity and restrictions on excessive force. These goals are attainable and are needed now.

I am, however, concerned at the expansion of this legislation, targeting fundamental protections such as due process and qualified immunity. This bill in its present form is troubling in many ways and will make an already dangerous and difficult job even more dangerous for the men and women in law enforcement who serve our communities every day with honor and courage. Below are just a few areas, among many others, that concern me and warrant your rejection of these components of this bill:

(1) Due Process for all police officers: Fair and equitable process under the law demands the same rights of appeal afforded to all citizens and fellow public servants. Due process should not be viewed as an arduous

impediment, but favored as a bedrock principle of fundamental fairness, procedure and accountability.

(2) Qualified Immunity: Qualified Immunity does not protect problem police officers. Qualified Immunity is extended to all public employees who act reasonably and in compliance with the rules and regulations of their respective departments, not just police officers. Qualified Immunity protects all public employees, as well as their municipalities, from frivolously lawsuits. This bill removes important liability protections essential for all public servants. Removing qualified immunity protections in this way will open officers, and other public employees to personal liabilities, causing significant financial burdens. This will impede future recruitment in all public fields: police officers, teachers, nurses, fire fighters, corrections officers, etc., as they are all directly affected by qualified immunity protections.

(3) POSA Committee: The composition of the POSA Committee must include more rank-and-file police officers and experts in the law enforcement field. If you're going to regulate law enforcement, up to and including termination, you must understand law enforcement. The same way doctors oversee doctors, lawyers oversee lawyers, teachers oversee teachers, experts in law enforcement should oversee practitioners in law enforcement.

In closing, I remind you that those who protect and serve communities across Massachusetts are some of the most sophisticated and educated law enforcement officials in the nation. I again implore you to amend and correct S.2820 so as to treat the men and women in law enforcement with the respect and dignity they deserve.

Thank you, Cynthia Andrade 24 Oneil st Hudon Ma

--

Cynthia Andrade
From: Lucie Gulino <LGulino@gbls.org>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 9:22 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Subject: Pass a Strong Police Accountability Bill with Key Provisions from S.2820

Dear Chairs HWM & Judiciary,

I urge you to pass legislation that establishes real oversight and accountability for police.

Our law enforcement system is rife with systemic racism that manifests in poignant police murders of unarmed black people, brutality and excessive use of force, unlawful arrests, and unnecessary police contact. The House of Representatives and Senate should ultimately pass a bill that ends qualified immunity in most instances, reduces and oversees police use of force, removes police from schools, expands juvenile expungement, and establishes funds to improve re-entry from incarceration.

The shielding of law enforcement from accountability for violating people's rights through qualified immunity is unacceptable and irresponsible. Police should be held to professionalism standards that limit misconduct similar to doctors or lawyers, who cannot commit malpractice with impunity. Additionally, we need to stop surveilling juveniles with police in schools, collect data, and let young people expunge records related to mistakes they made as a child. If we invest in communities of color and hold police accountable for their misuse of power, then we will have safer communities, less crime, and more respect for the justice system.

This is an urgent matter. Please pass a bill that includes at a minimum the provisions of the senate bill.

Sincerely,

Lucie Gulino
56 Cedar St Apt 2
Cambridge, MA 02140
LGulino@gbis.org

From: Dru Greenwood <dru.greenwood@msn.com>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 9:30 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Subject: Testimony on S.2820

To: Representative Aaron Michlewitz, Chairperson, House Committee on Ways and Means

Representative Claire Cronin, Chairperson, Joint Committee on the Judiciary

Hello, my name is Catherine (Dru) Greenwood with the Greater Boston Interfaith Organization (GBIO). I live at 66 Winchester Street, Brookline, MA 02446. I am writing to urge you and the House to pass police reform that includes:

- * Implementation of Peace Officer Standards & Training with certification
- * Civil service access reform
- * Commission on structural racism
- * Clear statutory limits on police use of force
- * Qualified immunity reform

I urge you to adopt the Senate language to reform the legal doctrine of qualified immunity. This reform will allow the few applicable cases to be heard by a jury without being dismissed because the particular violation of 4th amendment rights by a public official, such as a police officer,

has never been previously contemplated by a statute or a court precedent. Those cases deserve to be heard on their merits, not thrown out using a non-statutory legal doctrine. It is simply outrageous that those who have suffered from the egregious violations of police officers cannot get their day in court.

In addition, it is clear that qualified immunity reform will not have devastating financial impact on any police officers as they are indemnified by the municipalities that employ them. Any such claims are not based on fact and should not be considered as you consider this reform.

Thank you very much.

Catherine Greenwood

66 Winchester St.

Brookline, MA 02446

617-505.5071

drucgreenwood@msn.com

From: Kelly Dimbat <kellysells@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 9:29 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Subject: opposition to bill s.2820

kelly dimbat
26 Riverbank Terrace, Billerica MA 01821.

we need more time to review this bill! do not pass!

thank you,

kelly dimbat
--

Kelly Dimbat
@kdsellsma
Lamacchia Realty
Sent from mobile phone
From: pam goncalves <pamellagoncalves9@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 9:29 AM

To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Subject: ACT TO SAVE BLACK LIVES

"Chairman Michlewitz and Chairwoman Cronin,

Massachusetts can take a bold step towards ending systemic racism in policing by passing S. 2820, 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.

We need strong use of force guidelines for police in Massachusetts, public records of police misconduct, a duty to intervene policy, and bans on no-knock warrants, choke holds, tear gas, and other chemical weapons.

Please pass a bill that includes each of these critical reforms.

Key provisions of the legislation include: ? Ban the use of chokeholds, tear gas, and other dangerous "less than lethal" weapons and tactics ? Reform policies to require de-escalation before force is used ? New independent oversight of misconduct investigations ? Creates a "Duty to Intervene" when an officer witnesses excessive use of force ? Establishes that unnecessary use of force by an officer violates someone's civil rights ? Data collection and reporting processes to prevent abusive officers from being hired ? Ban "No Knock" warrants ? Create public records of police misconduct investigations and outcomes

Yours in community endeavors

Pamela Goncalves

83 West Cottage Street

Dorchester, MA 02125

Pamella Goncalves M.Ed
pamellagoncalves9@gmail.com
857-249-0637

"BY ANY MEANS NECESSARY" Brother X

From: Luke J <luke2025@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 9:29 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU); Orrall, Norman - Rep. (HOU)
Subject: Bill 2820

As your constituent, I write to you today to express my strong opposition to many parts of the recently passed S.2820. I hope that you will join me in prioritizing support for the establishment of a standards and accreditation committee, which includes increased transparency and reporting, as well as strong actions focused on the promotion of diversity and restrictions on excessive force. These goals are attainable and are needed now.

I am, however, concerned at the expansion of this legislation, targeting fundamental protections such as due process and qualified immunity. This bill in its present form is troubling in many ways and will make an already dangerous and difficult job even more dangerous for the men and women in law enforcement who serve our communities every day with honor and courage. Below are just a few areas, among many others, that concern me and warrant your rejection of these components of this bill:

(1) Due Process for all police officers: Fair and equitable process under the law demands the same rights of appeal afforded to all citizens and fellow public servants. Due process should not be viewed as an arduous impediment, but favored as a bedrock principle of fundamental fairness, procedure and accountability.

(2) Qualified Immunity: Qualified Immunity does not protect problem police officers. Qualified Immunity is extended to all public employees who act reasonably and in compliance with the rules and regulations of their respective departments, not just police officers. Qualified Immunity protects all public employees, as well as their municipalities, from frivolously lawsuits. This bill removes important liability protections essential for all public servants. Removing qualified immunity protections in this way will open officers, and other public employees to personal liabilities, causing significant financial burdens. This will impede future recruitment in all public fields: police officers, teachers, nurses, fire fighters, corrections officers, etc., as they are all directly affected by qualified immunity protections.

(3) POSA Committee: The composition of the POSA Committee must include more rank-and-file police officers and experts in the law enforcement field. If you're going to regulate law enforcement, up to and including termination, you must understand law enforcement. The same way doctors oversee doctors, lawyers oversee lawyers, teachers oversee teachers, experts in law enforcement should oversee practitioners in law enforcement.

In closing, I remind you that those who protect and serve communities across Massachusetts are some of the most sophisticated and educated law enforcement officials in the nation. I again implore you to amend and correct S.2820 so as to treat the men and women in law enforcement with the respect and dignity they deserve.

Thank you,

Lucas Jorge

780 South Precinct Street

East Taunton, Ma.

Email: luke2025@gmail.com

From: Kathryn Cohen <kathryn@childrensleague.org>

Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 9:29 AM

To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)

Cc: Tammy Mello

Subject: CLM Testimony on S.2820 - Expungement

July 17, 2020

Re: S.2820 to the House Ways and Means and Judiciary Committees,

Dear Chair Michlewitz, Chair Cronin, Vice Chair Day, and Vice Chair Garlick,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in support of expanding the expungement law as the House takes up S.2820 to address Racial Justice and Police Accountability. S.2800 includes this expansion and directly relates to over representation of young people of color in the criminal legal system.

The Children's League of Massachusetts is an ever-growing statewide non-profit association of over 60 private and public organizations and individuals that collectively advocate for public policies and quality services that are in the best interest of the Commonwealth's children, youth and families. Many of our member provide services to children and families in the child welfare system - and hire qualified individuals with juvenile records that as a result of their lived experiences - are better able to serve as role models to children in residential, foster, and adoption programs.

CLM supports this bill in order to ensure that that individuals are afforded the opportunity to find and retain gainful without being held back by a juvenile record, particularly when their record does not serve a public safety concern. Juvenile records prevent access to higher education, employment, housing, becoming a foster parent and other

opportunities. This is true even for individuals who were not found to have done anything wrong - under current law, restrictions on expungement eligibility are true even if a case is dismissed or the child is found to have not committed the offense.

That being said, juvenile records create lifelong barriers to success. The lawsuit, Gregory v. Commonwealth filed by the Lawyer's for Civil rights on behalf of childcare workers impacted by their juvenile records, highlights a problem that also affects child welfare service providers - an already fragile workforce committed to serving the Commonwealth's children.

To explain this more: As you are aware, the Department of Early Education and Care (EEC) is one of the agencies that has access to juvenile records, including sealed juvenile records, for background checks for all employees, volunteers of agencies licensed by EEC - child care agencies, private child care providers - and residential placements (non-child care). As of October 2018, EEC began phasing in regulatory changes to its background record check process (BRC) which have unjustly excluded some prospective and pre-existing employees from serving children in child care, residential care, and foster and adoption placement services. Specifically, the new regulations have expanded and re-categorized Criminal Offender Record Information (CORI) findings, and the accompanying disqualifying offenses as well as how these findings are applied to both candidates for employment and currently employed staff, which is resulting in what appears to be biased permanent exclusion from the field.

EEC has applied its revised and expanded CORI standards retroactively, culminating in long time employees being notified by EEC that they are no longer considered "suitable" for employment and employers informed that they must terminate these employees due to things like minor juvenile records. In one example an exceptional candidate with lived experience, was told to walk away due to charges from over 32 years ago.

If passed, this legislation would ensure that juvenile records that are expunged would not be subject to a background check and would allow individuals a chance to succeed and not be haunted by irrelevant childhood transgressions. States where there are minimal barriers to clearing juvenile records have significantly reduced re-arrest, recidivism rates and increased college graduation and incomes as these young people transition to adulthood.

We respectfully urge the House to work diligently to retain the expungement expansion and work diligent for its passage.

Tammy Mello

Executive Director

Children's League of Massachusetts

From: dzabilski@comcast.net
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 9:29 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Subject: Bill No. \$2820

Good morning,

I am sending this email to ask you NOT to support \$2820. Supporting this will hurt the State in many ways. We don't need any more hardships .

Thank you for listening.

Deb Zabilski
978-430-8242

Sent from Xfinity Connect ApplicationFrom: Margo <margomph@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 9:29 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Subject: Reform now

To: Representative Aaron Michlewitz, Chairperson, House Committee on Ways and Means

Representative Claire Cronin, Chairperson, Joint Committee on the Judiciary

I am writing as a member of the Greater Boston Interfaith Organization (GBIO). I live at 120 Dedham St in Newton, 02461.

I am writing to urge you and the House to pass police reform that includes:

- * Implement Peace Officer Standards & Training with certification
- * Civil service access reform
- * Commission on structural racism
- * Clear statutory limits on police use of force
- * Qualified immunity reform

Thank you very much.

Margo Michaels

Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone

<https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__overview.mail.yahoo.com_-3F.src-3DiOS&d=DwMFaQ&c=1DF7oMaPKXpkYvev9V-fVahWL0QWnGCCAfCDz1Bns_w&r=uoevGInjCfTlguYncQubxpi5R6db_gq1YmKr0SCk2EnIiuk13zIs16rchf_GkGDD&m=lz9I4blAHDc13HkDg4itL8B2UDXVBXQRNlfgJ5F7omg&s=L_3QkxPuAOuKizIfTyroraatDDHPSA2MXfBdayPhlkk&e=>>

From: Mail.com <chanfan@mail.com>

Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 9:29 AM

To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)

Subject: Senate bill 2820

Dear Chair Michlewitz and Chair Cronin,

My name is Jacqueline M. Sueldo Guevara and I live at 579 Raymond Rd, Plymouth, MA, 02360.

As a constituent, I write to express my opposition to Senate Bill 2820. This legislation is detrimental to police and correction officers who work every day to keep the people of the Commonwealth safe. In 2019 the Criminal Justice System went through reform. That reform took several years to develop. I am dismayed in the hastiness that this bill was passed but I welcome the opportunity to tell you how this bill turns its back on the very men and women who serve the public.

Qualified Immunity: Qualified immunity doesn't protect officers who break the law or violate someone's civil rights. Qualified immunity protects officers who did not clearly violate statutory policy or constitutional rights. The erasure of this would open up the flood gates for frivolous lawsuits causing officers to acquire additional insurance and tying up the justice system costing the Commonwealth millions of dollars to process such frivolous lawsuits.

Less Than Lethal Tools: The fact that you want to take away an Officer's use of pepper spray, impact weapons and K9 would leave no other option than to go from yelling "Stop", to hands on tactics and/or using your firearm. We are all for de-escalation but if you take away these tools the amount of injuries and deaths would without a doubt rise.

Civilian Oversight: While we are held to a higher standard than others in the community, to have an oversight committee made of people who have never worn the uniform, including an ex convicted felon is completely unnecessary and irresponsible. When this oversight board hears testimony where are the officer's rights under our collective bargaining agreement? Where are our rights to due process? What is the appeal process? These are things that have never been heard or explained to me. The need for responsible and qualified individuals on any committee should be first and foremost.

I am asking you to stop and think about the rush to reform police and corrections in such haste. Our officers are some of the best and well-trained officers anywhere. Although, while we are not opposed to getting better, it should be done with dignity and respect for the men and women who serve the Commonwealth. I ask that you think about the police officer you need to keep your streets safe from violence, and don't dismantle proven community policing practices. I would also ask that you think about the correction officer alone in a cell block, surrounded by up to one hundred inmates, not knowing when violence could erupt. I'm asking for your support and ensuring that whatever reform is passed, that you do it responsibly. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Jacqueline M. Sueldo Guevara

From: Ian Anderson <andersonian21@gmail.com>

Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 9:29 AM

To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)

Subject: Bill S2820 Testimony

Hello,

I am a resident of Brighton, MA and I unequivocally support the Reform, Shift + Build Act (S.2800).

Massachusetts has always been on the forefront of states passing legislation to support the people that live here and we've never shied away from decisions that seemed radical at the time. I have always been proud of MA being the first state to legalize gay marriage, and I hope to see us continue to make the right choices ahead of the curve and set the standard for the rest of the country to follow. It's time to eliminate qualified immunity, ban chokeholds, reallocate state funds to communities disproportionately impacted by the criminal justice system, and allow the Mass AG to file lawsuits against discriminatory police departments. I hope to see this legislation pass so I can continue to be a proud resident.

Thank you,

Ian

From: fmmooney1@verizon.net

Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 9:28 AM

To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)

Subject: Reject Senate Policing bill SB 2820

Dear Members of the Massachusetts House of Representatives: I am writing to ask you to reject the Policing Bill, SB 2820. It endangers public safety, removes important protections for police, and creates a commission to study and make recommendations regarding policing with a lopsided membership. Section 49 alters our education laws to prohibit school officials from reporting immigration or citizenship status to any law enforcement authority or GANG MEMBERSHIP. To think that school authorities would be prohibited from telling the police that a student might be a member of MS-13 or any other dangerous gang is extremely dangerous. Section 49 should be eliminated. SB 2820 endangers our police by dramatically watering down "qualified immunity" in Section 10. This provision should be eliminated. Section 52 should also be eliminated as it hinders an officer's ability to protect our roadways as well as him- or

herself by not allowing them to ask someone who they have stopped about their immigration or citizenship status. Section 63 creates a fifteen-member commission to make recommendations on policing. But, only 3 of the 15 are associated with policing. It should have more equal representation of law enforcement officers. I oppose SB 2820, and at a minimum, it should specifically eliminate any provisions similar to sections 10, 49, 52, and amend Section 63 to have more police representation. Sincerely, Francis Mooney

From: James Casey <jcasey@rehobothpd.org>

Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 9:28 AM

To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)

Subject: Please support law enforcement and look at bill S2820 with a fine tooth comb

Dear Chairman Michelwitz and Chairwoman Cronin,

My name is James M. Casey and I am a Sergeant with the Rehoboth Massachusetts Police Department. I am writing to ask that you not support the now called bill S2820. As you know the State Senate recently passed bill S2800 in the wee hours of the morning earlier this week. That bill as it is written is a knee jerk reaction to what happened to Greg Floyd thousands of miles away. That incident was an unfortunate one and I can assure you that I nor anyone in the Law Enforcement community stands with and/or condones what former Officer Derek Chauvin did to Mr. Floyd. Mr. Chauvin deserves to go to jail for a very long time.

I have been a police officer in Rehoboth for almost twenty years. In that time I have met many fine men and women who I have worked along side in Rehoboth and from other agencies throughout the State of Massachusetts. I can tell you that I have never seen any behavior such as the behavior of Mr. Chauvin's during the course of my career from any of these officers. As we all have gone through a police academy taught by the MPTC none of use have been training in a "choke" hold. That is not a part of our defensive tactics continuum. In my twenty years of service I have never observed an officer place any subject we were dealing with in a "choke" hold. With that said, I do believe that there is one instance when such a hold should be permissible. That only instance would be if an officer is in the fight of their life with someone trying to retain their duty weapon. Should that officer feel as though they are going to loose their weapon then and only then should a "choke" hold be permissible. Under no other circumstance should it be allowed. I ask that when the time comes to vote you consider this point.

Bill S2820 as it is written looks to limit the use of tear gas and pepper spray. Again if you look at our use of force continuum you will see that a subjects actions determines what level of force we go to. During the academy we are all required to be spray with pepper spray so we experience the affect of the aerosol. It was not a pleasant one but as an asthmatic I survived. In my twenty year career I have had to utilize pepper spray a handful of times but have had to show it countless times in trying to gain control of a situation. Being able to communicate and deescalate situations has prevented me from having to utilize this tool. I ask that when the time comes to vote you consider this point.

Sir and Madame, I would also ask that you consider that should the qualified immunity that protects officers in the times that we have to make a split second decision be taken away not only is the individual officer going to suffer but the public that we serve will also suffer. That is not to say that we in law enforcement should not be held accountable for our actions should we violate the law or someone's civil rights. I do believe that we as law enforcement officer should be held to a higher standard than the citizens that we protect and serve. I did not get into this career to abuse the power that was granted to me as a privilege over the people I swore to protect and serve almost twenty years ago. If we loose the qualified immunity then officers will begin to second guess themselves in a time of crisis and that could be catastrophic for the officer, the person he is trying to protect along with that officer's family. I go to work every day knowing that it could be the last day I see my wife and my children. Some people would say well "he knew the risks when he took the job". That is true. I love my job. I love the my brothers and sisters that I work with. I love the people of the town I work in. If called upon to make the ultimate sacrifice for them I will. There are thousands of officers throughout the Commonwealth of Massachusetts that are willing to make the same sacrifice as I am.

Any changes to qualified immunity would not be unnecessary if the legislature adopted a uniform statewide standard and bans unlawful use of force techniques which all police personnel unequivocally support.

There are many other aspects of bill S2820 that I do not agree with but this email would go on and on. I ask that as you review this bill should you know any police officers personally speak with them about their experience and how this bill would change how they do their job.

In closing I would like to thank you both for your dedicated service to the people of what I think of as the greatest state in the country. As my job does, I know that your job takes you away from your families at times that are not the most convenient. Please stay safe and healthy.

Sgt. James M. Casey

334 Anawan St.

Rehoboth, Ma. 02769

(508) 252-3722 x 1131

(774) 226-0166 (cell)

jcasey@rehobothpd.org

From: Miles Kirsch <mileskirsch@gmail.com>

Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 9:28 AM

To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Subject: Bill S2820 Testimony

Hi,

I am voicing my support for Bill S2820. I am a Roxbury Crossing resident and I am ashamed with how Boston and Mass has treated our residents of color lesser, blatantly and consistently.

Now is a time for change. Not next year, not next month, now. People of color have been discriminated against, assaulted, and murdered in this country for over a century and continue to be victims today.

It's time we strive for true equity, time we make real progress, time we enact justice.

We're all watching, very, very closely.

Do the right thing.

Best,
Miles

Sent from my iPhoneFrom: Kelly Decolibus-Fillion
<kellydeco4537@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 9:28 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Subject: Do not defund the police!

I'm against defunding the boston PD.
Kelly Fillion
508-333-0385

Sent from my iPhoneFrom: Courtney <cbendiksen1@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 9:27 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Subject: S2820

To Whom it May Concern:

My husband is a police officer and I am a nurse practitioner. We have put years and years of hard work, and our own blood, sweat and tears into attaining our dream careers. Ending qualified immunity puts our careers, as well as our lives and others at risk.

I am beyond frustrated, sickened and saddened over the divide in our country right now. I worked in a COVID-19 hospital during the pandemic, and saw more heartbreak, death and torn-apart families than I thought I would see in a lifetime. Essential workers like nurses and police officers worked tirelessly. Like many other nurses, doctors, paramedics, etc. , I truly put my life on the line everyday, and experienced a mere

taste of what my husband, a police officer, feels every single day he walks out the door.

These are unprecedented times, and our country should be coming together to lift each other up, but instead we are more divided than ever due to recent events. I have not met one police officer, or one person for that matter, that has not acknowledged the horrendous nature of George Floyd's catalytic death. I recognize and understand the need for change. However, I do not believe that abolishing qualified immunity is the appropriate way to achieve this change. Qualified immunity is NOT a "get out of jail free" card. It does NOT allow us to perform unlawful acts without consequence. It does NOT protect us from the law, reprimand, loss of our jobs, or paying back damages in money, time, etc. when we act negligently. It does NOT give us the excuse to act irresponsibly or unconstitutionally. It does NOT allow us to work incompetently or knowingly violate the law. It does however allow us some protection when are acting in a prudent and reasonable manner, based on the education, rules and regulations surrounding our jobs.

If qualified immunity is abolished, I fear that you will not only see a profound number of frivolous lawsuits, but a mass exodus of essential workers like myself and my husband. Both my husband and I have jobs where split second decisions sometimes have to be made, usually in high-stress environments. The lack of qualified immunity will cause hesitancy and delay when making these decisions, which can affect the safety of all involved- whether it be my husband's safety, the safety of the person he is trying to save, the safety of the patient I am trying to save.... the list goes on.

I urge you vote against ending qualified immunity. I acknowledge that there is room for change and improvement. However ending qualified immunity and the ability for public servants to perform their job to the best of their ability is not the right way to bring about change.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Courtney Bendiksen, MSN, AGACNP-BC

From: Larry Napolitano <ltnapolit@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 9:26 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Subject: Written Testimony for Police Reform Bill

To the Esteemed Members of the House of Representatives:

My name is Lawrence Napolitano. I am a police officer in the town of Shrewsbury. I graduated from the College of the Holy Cross with a

Bachelor's degree in sociology and received my Masters degree from UMass Lowell in Criminal Justice. I am writing today in regards to the police reform act that entails many different facets and will impact policing in the Commonwealth for years to come.

The first issue that I would like to discuss is in regards to Qualified Immunity. The changes made in regards to Qualified Immunity that were made in the Senate Bill will have a dramatic impact on not only police officers but all of our Massachusetts communities. State courts would have to develop a whole body of case law to interpret this new language. This will just lead to more uncertainty for everyone. As a police officer, I will constantly be asking myself can I be sued for this action.

For example, If police go to a domestic situation and lock up the husband for beating up his wife. When it goes to trial, as often happens in domestic situations, the wife invokes spousal privilege and refuses to testify against her husband. The case then gets dismissed, the husband can now come back and sue the police for wrongful arrest. He does not need to pursue these claims in federal court where most civil rights violations are currently heard, instead he will bring these claims forward in state court. Since these amendments will limit Qualified Immunity in Massachusetts, the majority of people will bring these cases to State courts.

Regardless of the outcome of the civil case, continue the scenario. The wife calls the police yet again for her husband physically attacking her, how do the police respond? They have a duty to act but should those officers have to once again worry about being sued for attempting to save this woman?

Yet another example, an officer arrests an impaired operator for Operating Under the Influence. The resulting case is found not guilty which happens more than 80% of the time in Massachusetts, even higher in some district courts as illustrated from the Boston Globe article from a few years back. That operator can now come back to sue the arresting officer and the town in which he was arrested. What do you think will happen next? Whether the officer and town are held liable or not, both parties are not going to want to go down this road again. The officer is going to stop making Operating Under the Influence arrests for fear of losing everything he worked so hard for and the town is going to encourage him to stop making those arrests.

Changes to qualified immunity does not just affect police officers, it affects all government officials. The number of lawsuits will skyrocket and flood state courts with the provision for attorney fees to be awarded to plaintiffs. There needs to be so much more careful consideration in regards to changes to qualified immunity. Legal scholars, academics and members of the judiciary committee need to carefully consider these changes and report back to the legislative body before any changes to Qualified Immunity go forward.

Some legislators may be pointing to lack of changes in the Indemnification Law as a reason why the Qualified Immunity changes are minor but that does not always apply to Municipal Officers like myself. The State Executive Branch and Legislators like yourselves are protected for up to \$1,000,000 for violations as long as you are not willful or malicious. Massachusetts State Police have a special statue of their own that also protects them from these claims. Most Municipal Officers have none of that. So now the burden will shift back to the towns and cities to create these protections in order to keep and protect police officers.

My second point of discussion in regards to this bill involves my Due Process Rights. Why should the board deciding my fate be made up of primarily non law enforcement personnel? Why can't this professional board be like every other professional board in the Commonwealth? In my opinion the board should be made up of a majority of law enforcement professionals, with appropriate and limited non-law enforcement representation.

I understand that some individuals are frustrated with the inability to get rid of unfit officers. No one dislikes a "bad cop" more than a "good cop". They make our job so much more difficult on a day to day basis. Police chiefs can get rid of unfit officers by following the appropriate guidelines. Civil service law acknowledges that processes at city and municipal levels are inherently biased. There needs to be an appeals process with an independent arbitrator to ensure that everyone has their due rights. The reason why public employees need just cause protections and appeals is to protect against political influence and other agendas. These changes will eliminate these protections and make political influence so much stronger.

I believe that most police officers in the Commonwealth take pride in doing the very best job that they can for all of the citizens of this great state. I do however completely understand the push for a change. If we as a society are not evolving and changing then we are for all intensive purposes dead. Massachusetts is not like other states, a lot of these recommendations are based on things that happen in other parts of the country not here. I am afraid that if these amendments pass as is, you will see many good police officers decide that the stress of the job is too much and the job is not worth it. You will lose way more than you gain and in my opinion, that does not make us any better as a society.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Lawrence Napolitano

From: Rob Capone <ccrc922@aol.com>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 9:26 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Cc: Hogan, Kate - Rep. (HOU)
Subject: S.2800 Police reform bill

presentatives Michlewitz and Cronin

Massachusetts House of Representatives

24 Beacon Street <x-apple-data-detectors://2>

Boston, MA 02133 <x-apple-data-detectors://3>

Dear Chairs Michlewitz and Cronin,

My name is Robert Capone and I live at 53 Old Marlboro Road in Maynard, Massachusetts.

I am writing to express my opposition to the current Senate bill S.2800, which was passed in the Massachusetts Senate this week and is being heard in the Massachusetts House of Representatives tomorrow for consideration.

My oppositions to this bill are very simple and straightforward. First, this bill will change the current legal standard of the Qualified Immunity doctrine in Massachusetts state courts. The present standard allows the courts to consider past precedent and established legal authority, and the information the public official possessed at the time of their alleged illegal action when determining whether the doctrine will apply to a public official defendant (most likely a police officer) before a case can go forward.

S.2800 would change the established legal standard to only allow the court to consider what every reasonable defendant would have understood as being illegal at the time of their alleged illegal action before allowing the case to go forward. This shift in legal doctrine would completely ignore the bedrock legal doctrine of stare decisis and legal precedent, and prohibit courts from benefiting from past decisions, both mandatory and persuasive, that would apply to the case at bar.

This will completely erode Qualified Immunity because it places far too much subjectivity into the decision whether to bring forward cause of action against a public employee. A finder of fact will be left to make their decisions in a vacuum, without the benefit of fairness and established legal precedents.

Secondly, I oppose S.2800 because of the changes it makes to the Massachusetts Civil Rights Act or "MCRA." Currently, under the MCRA, a plaintiff's case may only go forward against a public employee for acts that interfere with the exercise and enjoyment of [a citizen's] constitutional rights, as well as rights secured by the constitution or laws of the Commonwealth, where such interference of constitutional or statutory rights were achieved or attempted through threats, intimidation or coercion.

The proposed changes in § 10(b) of S.2800 completely delete the requirements of threats, intimidation and coercion be present in a public employee's alleged violation of the plaintiffs constitutional rights. This will, in effect, open the flood-gates for causes of action to be brought in Massachusetts state courts under the MCRA under this weakened standard. As you are aware, causes of action that lie under the MCRA are eligible for consideration of awarding attorney's fees if there is a favorable verdict for the plaintiff. What will stop unscrupulous plaintiffs and their attorneys from filing suit under this weakened standard in an attempt to exact a quick settlement that includes attorney's fees? The gatekeeper will be asleep at the wheel, as the finders of fact will have no way to dismiss these frivolous claims before they make their way into court.

Finally, please consider the families, children, spouses and public employees themselves when making your decisions regarding this piece of flawed legislation. Qualified Immunity was established to shield public employees who act in good faith from frivolous and exhortative law suits. The erosions of S.2800 place hardworking and dedicated public employees in a position where personal liability could apply in situations where it never should. Are their homes, college savings accounts, retirement accounts and personal assets so under-valued that they should be forfeited to settle damages in these cases? Our public employees, especially our police officers, deserve better.

I implore you to take more time and truly consider the far-reaching implications of this bill. There is no doubt that there are things that need to change in law enforcement, but this is not how they should change. A bill that is filed as a knee-jerk reaction in attempt to solve a real problem will only create more problems. Discussion, conversation, debate, opposition and objection, are all cornerstones to our democratic process. We must use them, even embrace them, in order to find a solution to police reform that is both meaningful and pragmatic.

Very truly yours,

Robert S. Capone

53 Old Marlboro Road

Maynard, MA 01754

Sent from my iPhone

From: Matt White <matthew.whitel2@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 9:27 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Subject: Support SB.2800

Dear Chairman Aaron Michlewitz & Co-chair Rep. Claire Cronin:

Good morning - My name is Matthew White, and I live in the Jones Hill neighborhood of Dorchester.

I am in favor of you passing SB.2800, the Reform, Shift, Build Act.

Our friends and neighbors of color deserve to be treated with the same dignity, and benefit of the doubt that I, a white man, am granted by law enforcement. The measures in this bill will help to ensure accountability in this area.

Thank you,

Matthew White

18 Windermere Rd

Dorchester, MA 02125

From: Fran Williams <fw2ndary@comcast.net>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 9:26 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Subject: I vote NO

I am very concerned about defunding the police and I am voting against it.

From: Nancy McArdle <nancymcardle@comcast.net>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 9:25 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Subject: Public testimony on police reform

To: Representative Aaron Michlewitz, Chairperson, House Committee on Ways and Means

Representative Claire Cronin, Chairperson, Joint Committee on the Judiciary

Good morning,

My name is Nancy McArdle and I'm with the Greater Boston Interfaith Organization (GBIO). I live at 69B Holland St., Somerville. I am writing to urge you and the House to pass police reform that includes:

- Implement Peace Officer Standards & Training with certification
- Civil service access reform
- Commission on structural racism
- Clear statutory limits on police use of force
- Qualified immunity reform

I'm sure you will do the right thing to protect and serve all our communities and ensure true public safety and justice.

Thanks for your attention to this urgent matter!

Nancy McArdle

nancymcardle@comcast.net

617 628 1341

69B Holland St.

Somerville, MA 02144

From: Scott <dotsdoherty@hotmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 9:25 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Subject: Police reform bill

From: Scott <dotsdoherty@hotmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 9:25 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Subject: Police reform bill

As your constituent, I write to you today to express my strong opposition to many parts of the recently passed S.2820. I hope that you will join me in prioritizing support for the establishment of a standards and accreditation committee, which includes increased transparency and reporting, as well as strong actions focused on the promotion of diversity and restrictions on excessive force. These goals are attainable and are needed now.

I am, however, concerned at the expansion of this legislation, targeting fundamental protections such as due process and qualified immunity. This bill in its present form is troubling in many ways and will make an already dangerous and difficult job even more dangerous for the men and women in law enforcement who serve our communities every day with honor and courage. Below are just a few areas, among many others, that concern me and warrant your rejection of these components of this bill:

(1)?Due Process for all police officers: Fair and equitable process under the law demands the same rights of appeal afforded to all citizens and fellow public servants. Due process should not be viewed as an arduous impediment, but favored as a bedrock principle of fundamental fairness, procedure and accountability.

(2)?Qualified Immunity: Qualified Immunity does not protect problem police officers. Qualified Immunity is extended to all public employees who act reasonably and in compliance with the rules and regulations of their respective departments, not just police officers. Qualified Immunity protects all public employees, as well as their municipalities, from frivolously lawsuits. This bill removes important liability protections essential for all public servants. Removing qualified immunity protections in this way will open officers, and other public employees to personal liabilities, causing significant financial burdens. This will impede future recruitment in all public fields: police officers, teachers, nurses, fire fighters, corrections officers, etc., as they are all directly affected by qualified immunity protections.

(3)?POSA Committee: The composition of the POSA Committee must include more rank-and-file police officers and experts in the law enforcement field. If you're going to regulate law enforcement, up to and including termination, you must understand law enforcement. The same way doctors oversee doctors, lawyers oversee lawyers, teachers oversee teachers, experts in law enforcement should oversee practitioners in law enforcement.

In closing, I remind you that those who protect and serve communities across Massachusetts are some of the most sophisticated and educated law enforcement officials in the nation. I again implore you to amend and correct S.2820 so as to treat the men and women in law enforcement with the respect and dignity they deserve.

Thank you,

Scott Doherty

Weymouth MA

Dotsdoherty@hotmail.com

Sent from my iPhone
From: robynbird <robynbird@rcn.com>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 9:25 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Subject: No to new commission

We live in a country of rules and laws.

If people break those laws they are innocent until proven guilty.

A sentence is handed down.

If the police department wants to have social justice training, so be it...we have all been forced one way or another.

I disagree with your idea that a commission needs to be put into place to do anything that you stated.

I disagree with you of increasing the size government in my state of Massachusetts

What are you all thinking? No, is what I say to the new "commission".

"No" to bigger state government.

Respectfully,
Robyn Michel
Hyde Park

Sent from my Verizon 4G LTE smartphone
From: jeremylevine@umass.edu
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 9:24 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Subject: Police Reform Bill

Good morning,

I'm writing today to voice support of the bill before the house to end qualified immunity, eliminate chokeholds, and take on other police reform. Police are treated as a protected class in our state – they rarely get in trouble if they do something wrong, yet they wield extraordinary power over the population. Simply put, a group that has this much power and abuses it constantly, in the supposed name of protecting the people, needs

to be dramatically re-thought. The police, in many instances, create more fear than they do safety. This bill would be a great first step in reducing some of that power and the culture of fear that the police propagate.

I've lived in Massachusetts for ten years. I've never had an especially negative interaction with the police. I'm also white. To me this represents that the story everyone has been telling — that the police target and terrorize Black people — is true. We then need a concerted effort on eliminating that bias — this means the history of racism training that this bill proposes.

It also means dramatically rethinking the role of the police in our state in the first place. We need to think hard about whether we need someone with a gun to check on a noise complaint or someone sleeping on a bench. We don't. This bill doesn't go here, I don't think. But that's the next step.

Again, I hope that the House votes to pass this bill. Policing is obviously broken — we won't get anywhere unless we try to do something to fix it.

Stay safe and healthy,
Jeremy Levine
PhD Student, UMass Amherst
From: rbsngrp@aol.com
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 9:24 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Subject: Fwd: URGENT!! S. 2820

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Chuilli, Kelly" <KChuilli@bridgewaterma.org>
Date: July 17, 2020 at 9:23:01 AM EDT
To: "'rbsngrp@aol.com'" <rbsngrp@aol.com>
Subject: URGENT!! S. 2820

With great urgency I ask that you exercise the utmost scrutiny to the police reform bill before you.

I have never had a complaint filed against me in nearly 20 years of service as police officer in the commonwealth of Massachusetts. I think that's the type of officer you strive to have in policing. I have boxes of cards and letters from the community and I have kept nearly every one as a reminder of the positive impact I have on people's lives. Nobody in my family was in law enforcement. Not one person. In fact, most of my family vehemently tried to persuade me against it. Still, after serving 4 years active duty in the U.S. Army, deploying Desert Shield and Desert Storm, I returned to Massachusetts to continue to serve yet again on a local level. When people say they support our troops but hate police, it blows my mind! In many cases, you're talking about the exact same person!

I am one of 3 females on my department. I have always been treated with respect and the utmost dignity. The men I work alongside are professional and respectful to a fault. I'm proud to belong among them in this noble profession.

The public, however has not always been so respectful. I've been called every name you can imagine. Every vulgar thing you can say to a woman has been hurled my way. I've been kicked, punched, spit on, concussed, threatened, and indecently assaulted. My family has vicariously endured this as well. The most that has ever been done over all these years to any person who has physically assaulted me or threaten to kill me and/or my entire family was probation! Even if they were already on probation, guess what happened? Just a little longer probation. What message does that send to the officer? I can tell you; it sends a message loud and clear that we aren't worth anything and our families don't mean much either! Our injuries are not taken into consideration and are "just part of the job". This is entirely unacceptable! Before now, NONE of this made me consider leaving this profession or walk away from my duty.

If you wonder why we are hyper-alert and suspicious of everyone, it's because we lose officers every day across our nation. We get the Officer Down alerts and it feels just a little bit closer. It's because courts are regularly turning people loose who are violent, carrying guns, ...stolen guns, repeatedly! We know we will surely be encountering those people; we just don't have the benefit of knowing in advance, it could be anyone at any time. I can't tell you the shock I am in when I encounter someone who is one their 2nd, 3rd, 4th or more illegal gun charge walking around free in society! What!? The public is not aware that this is even happening! We know it's happening and what these folks are capable of, and they have learned that minimal consequences, if any, will follow. The public doesn't have the benefit of this insight unless they unfortunately

fall victim. These are people that have no respect or regard for us, the public or even themselves!

The same is true for the soaring mental health problem. What I'm saying is that all of these problems are continuously dumped back on police and the involved agencies are letting us down! We are in a lose-lose situation where we are being set up to fail. Police cannot cure all that ails society, but we sure are taking the bulk of the blame for it, including race issues and claims that we are not "trained" enough. If I may agree in the training regard that when we routinely are called to a group home or ½ way house for someone that the trained professionals can no longer handle. Are we somehow supposed to be trained beyond the level of mental health professionals in that field? If it's beyond their scope, how would we ever become trained well enough that we surpass the career training of these mental health professionals?

Repeated calls to these situations are often violent and are among the most dangerous and challenging we face. Many group homes are housing people in residential area that are way beyond their ability and scope to treat in that type of environment. We are fully aware that we are likely going to be put in a situation where we need to protect ourselves and others but that any physical contact with these parties will be viewed as unnecessary or excessive. At times we have to take an officer off the road to ride in the ambulance in order to protect the paramedics, while they fight and spit, putting everyone at risk of biological hazards or injury.

Meaningful change needs to occur in our mental health response! Mental health related calls have exploded. They are the bulk of what we deal with now. If there is a belief that some funding should be moved from policing to social programs, and those programs include a SERIOUS mental health initiative, we are on board! Those calls however, need to be shifted away from police and toward those mental health agencies. They need to be removed from police responses, because that's where your calls will go bad and the liability comes in for the officer, agency and community. The things that nobody wants to deal with, routinely land in our lap. Go deal with it, but afterwards, "we don't like how you dealt with it". It's because it should not have been the police dealing with it in the first place.

Mental health is the root of the vast majority of our most serious issues. If you properly deal with mental health, you avoid the consequences of mental health problems. We have a "lack of coping skills" in this country. When people can't properly "cope", they hurt themselves, they hurt others, they abuse drugs and alcohol, self-medicate. This in turn causes people to commit property crimes, get involved in drug

activity or commit offenses to accommodate the lifestyle. It all truly comes back to not being able to properly cope in life and the result of that struggle.

Again, I cannot stress enough that we are failing at dealing with this key issue and we have been for a long time! Officers are routinely put in a position to take someone into custody for drugs/alcohol/mental health for a civil commitment against their will. The revolving door spits these folks back out without any meaningful assistance. I've personally taken some of the same individuals dozens of times. Now they are angry at the family members and they are angry at police. This doesn't make it easier. It makes it a lot harder!

Again, a recipe for disaster that does nothing to help anyone involved, builds frustration and creates a dangerous situation for everyone involved.

This reform bill that threatens qualified immunity and threatens to potentially bankrupt me and my family, makes me want to leave policing immediately.

I know I'm asked a lot of in policing, even risking my life and safety. I went into it knowing that. What I didn't know was that now they'd be asking me to potentially sacrifice my financial security on the whim of someone from the public making a claim against me, who wouldn't hesitate to lie or embellish the incident, after all, they're already willing to assault me and threaten me. Now place some monetary incentive behind it and you can imagine the potential.

How much is too much to ask of someone from their job? Well, I'll tell you that being at risk of criminal charges, and losing your assets when you believe you are doing the right thing, would be your answer. Where is the upside to this profession now? What is the incentive to keep doing the honorable thing when you are constantly vilified regardless of how you conduct yourself? Even when you're right, you could now be wrong based on a point of view from people who don't understand the pressure and circumstances of this job and what people are actually willing to do, even to a female (I'm someone's Mom).

I have been part of the CISM Peer Support Team for about 5 years. I don't get paid for this. I do it because it's important to help people. I care about the mental health of the folks in this profession who see the most gruesome, heinous, unimaginable things out there, all while trying to juggle their own lives and the inevitable struggles that come with it. A lot of folks are suffering from what they have had to respond to. This causes lasting detrimental effects. Poor mental health causes poor

decision making. Not a good combination when you must do it quickly and often!

I urge you to rethink this bill and some of the extreme things it's asking of our men and women in blue. I implore you to at the very least, see that this bill includes Critical Incident Stress Mgmt. and Peer Support Programs, and preserve our due process and qualified (not absolute) immunity. Our officers are being vilified for the actions of officers we've never even met and probably never would. I can think of no other profession that is punished across the board in this manner. We drop everything to come to everyone else's aid when they need help. Who will come to our aid? Who is helping us?

At the bare minimum, officer mental wellness needs to be a priority. We are going to need it!

I'm a member of our department's hiring board. It's a time consuming, rigorous, careful process. Over the past few years, the quality and quantity of candidates has dropped substantially. The best candidates, not surprisingly are going to jobs with better working conditions, hours, respect and pay. I worry what kind of candidates would now be willing to step up to do this job, as most intelligent, talented people will undoubtedly pass on this.

We welcome opportunities to improve our tactics and raise the standards of our chosen profession. The public needs to bring their standards up as well!

We no longer seem to be teaching respect and law-abiding behaviors. Every call we go on now is a debate or worse. It has become a sport to challenge officers in even the most minor interaction. We didn't get the benefit of safely working from home, time off or incentive checks during this COVID-19 crisis. We did what was asked of us despite the risk to ourselves and our families. We enjoyed a brief moment of gratitude from the public and then just like that, the sickening act of one distant officer made every single one of us monsters. Is that a best practice for raising the bar in any profession? Is that really how it's supposed to work?

It makes me sad for society going forward.

There are a lot a good people in our community, and many of them work alongside me. Our communities will lose compassionate, upstanding, professional officers who have years of experience and formal education. Many volunteer in the community or commit quiet acts of kindness that nobody ever hears about.

I ask that you do the right thing and consider the impact this will have on the men and women who give so much to people, who at times care so little for us.

Respectfully,

Kelly A. Chuilli

Bridgewater Police

508-697-6118

E-mail sent or received via the Town of Bridgewater network are subject to disclosure under the Massachusetts Public Records Law (M.G.L. Chapter 66, Section 10) and the Federal Freedom of Information Act. However, portions of this message, including any attachments, may be confidential, legally privileged and/or exempt from disclosure pursuant to Massachusetts Law (M.G.L. Chapter 78, Section 7). It is intended solely for the addressee. If you received this in error, please contact the sender and delete the material from any computer under your control.

From: John Kilcoyne <jfkilcoyne90@icloud.com>

Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 9:24 AM

To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)

Subject: Fwd: S2820

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: John Kilcoyne <jfkilcoyne90@icloud.com>

Date: July 16, 2020 at 10:22:15 PM EDT

To: HWMJudiciary@mahouse.gov

Cc: jkilcoyne@solarkilcoyne.com, Ferguson Kim <kfergl294@charter.net>, Harold Naughton <hnaughtonjr@gmail.com>, Meghan Kilcoyne <meg.kilcoyne@gmail.com>

Subject: S2820

Dear Judiciary Committee;

As a taxpayer and resident of Sterling, I strongly urge you to vote "no" on this bill. Though some changes may be needed in police reform in our state, the changes to "qualified immunity" in this bill are misguided. Allowing plaintiffs to sue police officers, fire personnel, first responders and all municipal employees at the state level for any perceived wrong doing will lead to unlimited litigation subsidized by taxpayers in each and every town and city.

Given the current fiscal challenges all municipalities face each year, adding the sure to be enormous legal costs to each community would be a financial nightmare.

Please vote "no" on this version of S2820.

Respectfully;

John Kilcoyne
90 Beaman Road
Sterling, MA
978-697-7403

Sent from my iPhone

From: SHANNON MCLAUGHLIN <shanmac12@verizon.net>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 9:24 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Subject: Bill S2800

Good afternoon, my name is Shannon Fabiano and I reside in Charlestown Ma. My husband is a 20 year member of the Boston Police department as well a Dad of 4 children. These past months have been a living hell for my children and I, we sit up worrying constantly about his safety. Now, we have to worry about if we will be sued for everything we worked hard for. This bill will limit his duties to serve and protect the residents of Boston who deserve the best from him. Please please I beg you to reconsider.

Sincerely,
Shannon Fabiano

Sent from my iPhone
From: Iueh Soh <iuehsoh@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 9:24 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU); Caro Murphy; Zienab Abdelgany; Shayok Chakraborty
Subject: GBIO: Caro Murphy Police Reform Story

To: Representative Aaron Michlewitz, Chairperson, House Committee on Ways and Means

Representative Claire Cronin, Chairperson, Joint Committee on the Judiciary

My name is Caro Murphy with the Greater Boston Interfaith Organization and I've lived in the Greater Boston Area for the last decade. I live at 11 Parker St, Watertown MA. 02472. Like most white people, I grew up believing the police were here to protect us. I no longer believe that. When I see blue lights, I feel afraid, and this is just a fraction of what my BIPOC friends have felt for their entire lives.

I'd like to share with you a story about how our police behave, to show you how pressing it is for these reforms to be passed.

One spring day in 2018, my partner called me, asking me to remember the name and badge number of a Boston Police officer. He was terrified.

He had been walking along Chauncy Street in the city, and had tossed a peanut M&M aside, discarding it, and it had bounced off of a nearby vehicle. The driver of the vehicle became irate, revving his engines and honking excessively. He then u-turned around in the middle of the one-way street, and drove up onto the sidewalk to block my partner's passage. The driver got out of the car and started yelling at my partner. He then lifted his shirt to reveal a gun that he had tucked into his belt.

Next, he revealed himself to be a plain-clothes Boston Police Officer, and produced a badge which had previously been tucked into his shirt. Only after committing several traffic violations that endangered the safety of pedestrians and other vehicles, verbally abusing, and physically threatening a man with a gun did the officer bother to mention that he was a cop.

All this over a peanut M&M.

Now my partner is lucky. He's lucky because he's very well educated about his rights, and used this knowledge to let the officer know he was out of line. He's lucky because there were many building cameras directed at them that could verify the officer's improper reaction, and he let the officer he would be willing to let the legal system decide who was in the wrong. He's lucky because he kept his calm, and was able to get away from that situation unscathed. But most importantly-- my partner is lucky because he's white.

If he had not been white, it's not hard to imagine that the situation would have gone down very, very differently.

The stories we hear about police using unnecessary force and intimidation are so common it's laughable, but I'm not laughing. This is not just an isolated problem-- it is a massive systemic issue in our nation, and yes, our state, that needs to be addressed right now. We need to pass these police reforms, and we need them to be strong-- it cannot wait any longer.

I am writing to urge you and the House to pass police reform that includes:

- * Implement Peace Officer Standards & Training with certification
- * Civil service access reform
- * Commission on structural racism
- * Clear statutory limits on police use of force
- * Qualified immunity reform

Thank you very much.

Caroline A. Murphy
1 Parker St, Watertown MA. 02472.
From: Abby Flam <aflam@comcast.net>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 9:24 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Subject: Fwd: Police Reform Bill

To: Representative Aaron Michlewitz, Chairperson, House Committee on Ways and Means

Representative Claire Cronin, Chairperson, Joint Committee on the Judiciary

Hello, my name is Abby Flam with the Greater Boston Interfaith Organization (GBIO). I live at 15 Weldon Rd. Newton, MA 02458. I am writing to urge you and the House to pass police reform that includes:

- * Implement Peace Officer Standards & Training with certification
- * Civil service access reform
- * Commission on structural racism
- * Clear statutory limits on police use of force
- * Qualified immunity reform

Thank you very much.

Abby Flam

aflam@comcast.net

617-795-0219

15 Weldon Rd.
Newton, MA 02458

From: Maura Kelly <maurakelly10@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 9:23 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Subject: Police Reform Testimony

To whom it may concern,
I'm writing to you to in support of the bill on police reform. There is NO reason for murder and violence by police officers.
I write to you as a 31 year old, 5ft3inch, female who has worked on an inpatient psychiatry unit and in psychiatric emergency services for the last 9 years. I've been assaulted and threatened several times. I have no armor, no weapons, and I'm still here. I've learned how to use non violent crisis intervention. I've leaned now to use hands off de-escalation techniques. I spent the time to learn how to support those in need and manage my own fears rather than hit back. Why do police feel that they are in danger when they have weapons, shields, power. Chokeholds need to be banned. Chemical weapons need to be banned. Police constantly use the excuse of being "fearful of their life" and reacting yet an individual with no training is being asked to instantly be in complete control of their biological fight/flight response. This needs to change.
I also work with children who are living in a state of constant fear. These children see police not protecting them and feel alone. This violence is causing long term trauma which in turn leads to challenges

controlling emotional response. So how to you expect these children to grow up and not be fearful, not run, not be distrusting, when the violence that this system is build around puts them in this position.

Boston has been a leader in this country on so many important issues. We need to step up and protect ALL of our people. Show the rest of the country how police reform works. Do it right, do better.

Thank you for your time.

Maura Kelly, LMHC

--

Maura Kelly
(914)879-9853

"The best way out is always through"- Robert Frost

From: Shawn McIntyre <shawnmac48@yahoo.com>

Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 9:21 AM

To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)

Subject: Police Reform Bill

Good Morning,

As your constituent, I write to you today to express my strong opposition to many parts of the recently passed S.2820. I hope that you will join me in prioritizing support for the establishment of a standards and accreditation committee, which includes increased transparency and reporting, as well as strong actions focused on the promotion of diversity and restrictions on excessive force. These goals are attainable and are needed now.

I am, however, concerned at the expansion of this legislation, targeting fundamental protections such as due process and qualified immunity. This bill in its present form is troubling in many ways and will make an already dangerous and difficult job even more dangerous for the men and women in law enforcement who serve our communities every day with honor and courage. Below are just a few areas, among many others, that concern me and warrant your rejection of these components of this bill:

(1) Due Process for all police officers: Fair and equitable process under the law demands the same rights of appeal afforded to all citizens and fellow public servants. Due process should not be viewed as an arduous impediment, but favored as a bedrock principle of fundamental fairness, procedure and accountability.

2) Qualified Immunity: Qualified Immunity does not protect problem police officers. Qualified Immunity is extended to all public employees who act reasonably and in compliance with the rules and regulations of their respective departments, not just police officers. Qualified Immunity protects all public employees, as well as their municipalities, from frivolously lawsuits. This bill removes important liability protections essential for all public servants. Removing qualified immunity protections in this way will open officers, and other public employees to personal liabilities, causing significant financial burdens. This will impede future recruitment in all public fields: police

officers, teachers, nurses, fire fighters, corrections officers, etc., as they are all directly affected by qualified immunity protections.

(3) POSA Committee: The composition of the POSA Committee must include more rank-and-file police officers and experts in the law enforcement field. If you're going to regulate law enforcement, up to and including termination, you must understand law enforcement. The same way doctors oversee doctors, lawyers oversee lawyers, teachers oversee teachers, experts in law enforcement should oversee practitioners in law enforcement.

In closing, I remind you that those who protect and serve communities across Massachusetts are some of the most sophisticated and educated law enforcement officials in the nation. I again implore you to amend and correct S.2820 so as to treat the men and women in law enforcement with the respect and dignity they deserve.

Thank you,
Shawn McIntyre
8 Dianne Road
Stoneham, MA 02180
Shawnmac48@yahoo.com
From: Katie Maliel <mmemaliel@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 9:23 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Subject: Police Reform

To: Representative Aaron Michlewitz, Chairperson, House Committee on Ways and Means

Representative Claire Cronin, Chairperson, Joint Committee on the Judiciary

Hello, my name is Katie Maliel with the Greater Boston Interfaith Organization (GBIO). I live at 3 Elm Lawn St. In Milton, MA. I am writing to urge you and the House to pass police reform that includes:

- * Implement Peace Officer Standards & Training with certification
- * Civil service access reform
- * Commission on structural racism
- * Clear statutory limits on police use of force
- * Qualified immunity reform

Thank you very much.

Katie Maliel

From: Siiri Morley <siiri.morley@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 9:23 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Subject: Pass SB.2800, Reform, Shift, Build Act

Dear Chairman Aaron Michlewitz & Co-chair Rep. Claire Cronin:

My name is Siiri Morley. I am a resident of Jamaica Plain and a member of March like a Mother: for Black Lives. I am writing this virtual testimony to urge you to pass SB.2800 the Reform, Shift, Build Act in its entirety. It is the minimum and the bill must leave the legislature in its entirety.

I stand with March like a Mother: for Black Lives because I am a citizen that believes our liberation is all connected and that none of us are free until all of us are free. I am a white woman who is also a mother to a 3 year old white boy. I know that my son will move through his life in a privileged and safe way. He will be given the benefit of the doubt when encountering the police, while other boys his age who are Black and brown will be targeted and potentially murdered. My own brother, if he had been Black, would likely not be alive today - or would very likely be held behind bars. Instead, because he was seen as "a bright kid with a promising future" he has no record and is living a prosperous life.

This bill bans chokeholds, promotes de-escalation tactics, certifies police officers, prohibits the use of facial recognition, limits qualified immunity for police, and redirects money from policing to community investment.

I urge you to ensure that all aspects of this bill are intact. We are in a historical moment and this bill ensures that we in Massachusetts meet the demand of this movement.

Thank you for your consideration of your request to give SB.2800 a favorable report.

Sincerely,

Siiri Morley

95 Saint Rose Street #2, Jamaica Plain, MA 02130

March like a Mother: for Black Lives

--

Siiri Morley
siiri.morley@gmail.com

* www.linkedin.com/pub/siiri-morley/3/977/225/
<https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=http-3A__www.linkedin.com_pub_siiri-2Dmorley_3_977_225_&d=DwMFaQ&c=1DF7oMaPKXpkYvev9V-fVahWL0QWnGCCAfCDz1Bns_w&r=uoevGInjCfTlguYncQubxpi5R6db_gq1YmKr0SCk2EnIiuk13zIs16rchf_GkGDD&m=a_9QenlQ0utlEyaJiL1lw5QJ9wo207du7C_Ax4TbVqk&s=rwZLdxtMC_8RGG2Cp13HeiOLzyftHMTuJ7jOuwVZNPw&e=>>

"Courage is the most important of all the virtues, because without courage you can't practice any other virtue consistently"

~ Maya Angelou

From: Irvienne Goldson <irvienne@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 9:23 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Cc: Irvienne Goldson
Subject: Pass SB.2800, Reform, Shift, Build Act

My name is Irvienne Goldson I am a resident of Cambridge 02140 a member of March like a Mother: for Black Lives. I am writing this virtual testimony to urge you to pass SB.2800 the Reform, Shift, Build Act in its entirety. It is the minimum and the bill must leave the legislature in its entirety.

I support this bill because the reality is clear,

it is only Black/Brown folks who die in the custody of police from chokeholds that sitting on a humans' neck. Make that upstream move by voting to pass the "Black Lives depends on it" bill!

This bill bans chokeholds, promotes de-escalation tactics, certifies police officers, prohibits the use of facial recognition, limits qualified

immunity for police, and redirects money from policing to community investment.

I urge you to ensure that all aspects of this bill are intact. We are in a historical moment and this bill ensures that we in Massachusetts meet the demand of this movement.

Thank you for your consideration of your request to give SB.2800 a favorable report.

Sincerely,

Irvienne Goldson

8 Lancaster Street, Cambridge MA 02140

March like a Mother: for Black Lives

From: Zachary Fritzhand <zfritz@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 9:22 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Subject: Must Pass SB.2800, Reform, Shift, Build Act

Dear Chairman Aaron Michlewitz & Co-chair Rep. Claire Cronin:

My name is Zachary Fritzhand. I am a resident of Somerville, MA and father of a 1 year old daughter. I am writing this virtual testimony to urge you to pass SB.2800 the Reform, Shift, Build Act in its entirety. It is the minimum and the bill must leave the legislature in its entirety.

I moved from Ohio nearly a decade ago and am proud that MA is considered a progressive state. This Bill is the minimum the State must do. We have a moral obligation to begin creating a more just and equitable society and this is a step towards achieving that. It is not OK for Black residents in 2020 to fear for their lives from the citizens whose very job is to protect their lives. If action is not taken, we will continue to be on the wrong side of history.

This bill bans chokeholds, promotes de-escalation tactics, certifies police officers, prohibits the use of facial recognition, limits qualified immunity for police, and redirects money from policing to community investment.

I urge you to ensure that all aspects of this bill are intact. We are in a historical moment and this bill ensures that we in Massachusetts meet the demand of this movement.

Thank you for your consideration of your request to give SB.2800 a favorable report.

Sincerely,

Zachary Fritzhand

(2)?Qualified Immunity: Qualified Immunity does not protect problem police officers. Qualified Immunity is extended to all public employees who act reasonably and in compliance with the rules and regulations of their respective departments, not just police officers. Qualified Immunity protects all public employees, as well as their municipalities, from frivolously lawsuits. This bill removes important liability protections essential for all public servants. Removing qualified immunity protections in this way will open officers, and other public employees to personal liabilities, causing significant financial burdens. This will impede future recruitment in all public fields: police officers, teachers, nurses, fire fighters, corrections officers, etc., as they are all directly affected by qualified immunity protections.

(3)?POSA Committee: The composition of the POSA Committee must include more rank-and-file police officers and experts in the law enforcement field. If you're going to regulate law enforcement, up to and including termination, you must understand law enforcement. The same way doctors oversee doctors, lawyers oversee lawyers, teachers oversee teachers, experts in law enforcement should oversee practitioners in law enforcement.

In closing, I remind you that those who protect and serve communities across Massachusetts are some of the most sophisticated and educated law enforcement officials in the nation. I again implore you to amend and correct S.2820 so as to treat the men and women in law enforcement with the respect and dignity they deserve.

Thank you,

John V Zielinski

9 Angelica Dr, Westfield, MA 01085

msp3378@yahoo.com

413-386-7004

From: William Cullen <cullen.wmj@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 9:22 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU); Madaro, Adrian - Rep. (HOU)
Cc: William J. Cullen
Subject: S2820

Representative Madaro,

As your constituent, I write to you today to express my strong opposition to many parts of the recently passed S.2820. I hope that you will join me in prioritizing support for the establishment of a standards and accreditation committee, which includes increased transparency and reporting, as well as strong actions focused on the promotion of diversity and restrictions on excessive force. These goals are attainable and are needed now.

I am, however, concerned at the expansion of this legislation, targeting fundamental protections such as due process and qualified immunity. This bill in its present form is troubling in many ways and will make an already dangerous and difficult job even more dangerous for the men and women in law enforcement who serve our communities every day with honor and courage. Below are just a few areas, among many others, that concern me and warrant your rejection of these components of this bill:

(1) Due Process for all police officers: Fair and equitable process under the law demands the same rights of appeal afforded to all

citizens and fellow public servants. Due process should not be viewed as an arduous impediment, but favored as a bedrock principle of fundamental fairness, procedure and accountability.

(2) Qualified Immunity: Qualified Immunity does not protect problem police officers. Qualified Immunity is extended to all public employees who act reasonably and in compliance with the rules and regulations of their respective departments, not just police officers. Qualified Immunity protects all public employees, as well as their municipalities, from frivolously lawsuits. This bill removes important liability protections essential for all public servants. Removing qualified immunity protections in this way will open officers, and other public employees to personal liabilities, causing significant financial burdens. This will impede future recruitment in all public fields: police officers, teachers, nurses, fire fighters, corrections officers, etc., as they are all directly affected by qualified immunity protections.

(3) POSA Committee: The composition of the POSA Committee must include more rank-and-file police officers and experts in the law enforcement field. If you're going to regulate law enforcement, up to and including termination, you must understand law enforcement. The same way doctors oversee doctors, lawyers oversee lawyers, teachers oversee teachers, experts in law enforcement should oversee practitioners in law enforcement.

In closing, I remind you that those who protect and serve communities across Massachusetts are some of the most sophisticated and educated law enforcement officials in the nation. I again implore you to amend and correct S.2820 so as to treat the men and women in law enforcement with the respect and dignity they deserve.

Thank you,

William J. Cullen

82 Saint Andrew Rd.

Boston, MA 02128

email: cullen.wmj@gmail.com

From: roxannem07131970@gmail.com
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 9:22 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Subject: Police reform (S 2820)

Chairman Michlewitz and Chairwoman Cronin,

Massachusetts can take a bold step towards ending systemic racism in policing by passing S. 2820, 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.

We need strong use of force guidelines for police in Massachusetts, public records of police misconduct, a duty to intervene policy, and bans on no-knock warrants, choke holds, tear gas, and other chemical weapons.

Please pass a bill that includes each of these critical reforms.

Thank you for your consideration

Roxanne Mather
876 Crescent St #2F
Brockton MA 02302

From: Dr Ali <rrinn@norwoodma.gov>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 9:21 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Subject: Bill S2820

My name is Robert Rinn, I am a retired Police Officer, retiring after serving over 38 years in the Dedham (5) and Norwood (33+). I am currently serving as a Special Police Officer in Norwood.

I am writing to ask that the House vote no on this bill, or at least a large part of the bill for many reasons. I think you all know that Police officer's all over the country are disgusted and have made those feelings know over the death of George Floyd. Nobody hates a bad cop more than a good cop.

Regarding the bill I would like to say that the Commonwealth has some of the most highly trained Police Officers in the country that embraced training on Dealing With Persons Suffering Mental Health Issues long before other states. I've have been trained on this for approx. the last 10 years. We were also one of the states that began implementing Community Policing programs very early and many of these programs have become models for other police agencies across the country. Most police officers in Massachusetts hold college degrees (many with Master's degrees and several with Law degrees)related to policing as well as their Police Academy training, Specialized training, and yearly in-service training and updates.

Massachusetts has seen very few incidents of injuries or deaths due to police brutality or police misconduct. There will always be some injuries and deaths associated with policing and it is certainly the hope that none of these will be due to brutality or misconduct. No police officer puts his or her uniform on at the beginning of their tour thinking, "What can I get away with or who can I hurt today. ". Quite the contrary they get

ready thinking 2 things, I hope I can help someone today and I pray that I will go home safe to my family when the day is done.

This bill would make changes to Qualified Immunity for Police Officers and many other professions who are employed by the state or municipalities such as Firefighters, Teachers, EMT's, Paramedics, Nurses. All first responders who are called upon to act in emergency situations to save lives and property. It would not change the Absolute Immunity of the court employees or Judges though. Kind of a slap in the face to the people who RUN into trouble instead of away don't you think. These same people who were being praised after 911 and during the pandemic we are now living with.

It would also create boards and committees to judge and second guess police officers interactions with criminals and others. I am not opposed to oversight for officers actions but the bill proposes people sitting on these boards and committees who have no police or law enforcement experience. Wouldn't it make sense to have law enforcement representatives on these or at minimum have the people sitting and judging officers to have some experience.

The bill also wants to ban chokeholds I was never trained to use a chokehold and never have used one in 43 years of professional policing. It also addresses use of teargas or chemical agents, there are times that these need to be used as less than lethal means to quell a disturbance or take a violent person into custody.

It also talks about police departments securing or purchasing military grade equipment. Who is in a better position to know what a department needs to police their city or town. Lowell, Boston, or Lynn may certainly need different equipment than Brimfield or Whately. This cannot and should not be legislated with a broad brush by people who don't have experience. It is nothing more than an unnecessary knee jerk reaction to an incident that happened far away from Massachusetts.

In closing I would ask that this bill as written in a hurried and haphazard manner that will make many changes that will prove to be detrimental not only to the police but dangerous for every citizen of the Commonwealth be voted down.

It would make far more sense and be a far more educated and dignified response to vote it down and come back during the next legislative session and take the time to draft and adopt a bill that addresses citizen concerns with discussion and input from all sides so that we can get it right the first time. The citizens and the police deserve this instead of a kick in the head from the screaming minority and a knee jerk reaction by government.

Thank you for putting this on record and considering my thought during your deliberations on this bill.

Sincerely,

Robert Rinn
781-727-5326.

From: matthew hincman <matthew.hincman@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 9:21 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Subject: Police Reform

I would like to register my support for the following:

- * Juvenile Justice Data Transparency (as filed in H.2141)
- * End the automatic prosecution of teenagers, but raising the age of juvenile jurisdiction past the 18th birthday (as filed in H.3420)
- * Expand expungement eligibility (as passed in S.2820, Sections 59-61)
- * Protect the profiling of students in schools (as passed in S.2820, Sections 49)
- * End police placement in schools, and require Public accountability for what police do in schools. (as passed in S.2820, Section 50)

There can be no justice without these important reforms that hold police accountable for their actions, and begin to dismantle the militarized police state we find ourselves in.

Thank you very much,

Matthew Hincman

From: Carlie Clarcq <clarqc@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 9:21 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Subject: Support for S.2800

Hello,

I am writing to you in my support for S.2800. I believe police reform is necessary to achieve true justice and equity in our MA community, and I am strongly in support of this bill. Thank you,
Carlie Clarcq

--

Carlie Clarcq

480 Parker Street, Boston MA

585-507-9697 | clarqc@gmail.com

From: Nancy O'Shaughnessy <irishseven62@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 9:20 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Subject: S.2800

To whom it may concern:

This bill deserves more conversation. And I would appreciate it if you would take the time to really read what is written in the bill and how it will negatively affect everyone, not just whites, not just blacks, but

everyone. And then make revisions so that all people are treated fairly and with respect.

Qualified Immunity allows for an officer to save a child's life without concern of being sued. Or going forward, will a waiver need to be signed prior to an officer attempting to save a life? That seems a waste of time. For example: If he were to break the child's rib in order to save him, Qualified Immunity protects the officer from a civil lawsuit for accidentally breaking the child's rib. Same for a man or woman having a heart attack and CPR is administered by the officer. Qualified Immunity allows that officer to save that life without fear of being sued. Qualified immunity doesn't apply to officers in situations when they have worked outside the framework of lawful behavior. Nor should it. Therefore, if you were to limit or remove Qualified Immunity, basically you are jeopardizing the safety and well-being of the officers, their families and ultimately the communities and every single person in those communities.

Please don't just feed into what is happening elsewhere and jump on the bandwagon. Please really consider what is right for the residents of Massachusetts.

Thank you for your time in reading my comments.

Sincerely,

Nancy O'Shaughnessy
508-376-1202
Millis, MA 02054
From: Drew O'Malley <omalleyj17@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 9:20 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Subject: Bill S2800

I am writing this in hopes that the House Judiciary Committee will re-evaluate the language of Bill S.2820. As a law enforcement officer with over 23 years of experience in Massachusetts I am horrified by the impulsive, agenda driven actions that some of our politicians are taking in this "police reform" bill. Everyone in our profession is open to improving the quality of service that we provide to our communities but none of us deserve to be treated as the problem and left out to dry by the communities that we have sworn to protect. We have worked in conjunction with our communities over the past 20 years to build relationships, increase transparency and accountability. Massachusetts is not Minneapolis and our law enforcement officers should not be painted with the same broad brush because of the actions of a few officers clear across the country. The media and politically driven narrative is painting all officers as racist and abusive, which is just plain not true and is eating at the core of the honest, hardworking men and women serving our communities with integrity every day.

It is alarming to me that some of the politicians putting together this bill have no idea the potential long-term repercussions it will have on our society as a whole. They are not educated, although many think they are, on what Qualified Immunity is and more importantly what it is not. They are making decisions based on philosophical ideals and not based on actual evidence or practical applications.

The origins of the situations that have happened throughout our country have many layers yet we are trying to solve them with one broad ranging and misdirected bill. For far too long the training, education and value of police officers has been deficient. How does it make sense in a modern society to expect a human being to be an expert in all of the areas that default to law enforcement yet many departments have minimum qualifications of a high school diploma? How are law enforcement officers expected to deal every day with violent, disrespectful, highly agitated people on their worst day under rapidly evolving tense situations and be Monday morning quarterbacked by individuals that have never been in those situations and do not know all of the circumstances? How do we expect officers to deal with individuals in mental health crisis or those situations of life and death but we cut and only provide minimal training to those officers? Why does society look at a police officer's salary and benefits with disdain and look to minimize their value to their communities? Yet with all of these issues, and others, the first option to default to when something goes bad, which is very rarely by the way, is to question the motives and integrity of the officer involved. How do well educated elected officials and others in our community come to these conclusions? I know one thing for sure that if this bill passes as written we will see a huge increase in experienced officers leaving the field and we will be attracting a lot less qualified candidates for this thankless job. We are tired of being vilified by those we serve!

Changes need to be made, there is no doubt about that. Let's make real changes to have positive impacts on our community. President Barack Obama addressed this issue back in 2015 by saying "Too often, law enforcement gets scapegoated for the broader failures of our society and criminal justice system. I know that you do your jobs with distinction no matter the challenges you face. That's part of wearing the badge". Let's stop looking for the easy answer, let's stop the scapegoating and let's start having the honest conversations that can create substantive change for all!

Andrew O'Malley

From: CLAUDE Lapointe <claudelapointe@comcast.net>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 9:20 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Subject: S.2820

As your constituent, I write to you today to express my strong opposition to many parts of the recently passed S.2820. I hope that you will join me in prioritizing support for the establishment of a standards and accreditation committee, which includes increased transparency and reporting, as well as strong actions focused on the promotion of diversity

and restrictions on excessive force. These goals are attainable and are needed now.

I am, however, concerned at the expansion of this legislation, targeting fundamental protections such as due process and qualified immunity. This bill in its present form is troubling in many ways and will make an already dangerous and difficult job even more dangerous for the men and women in law enforcement who serve our communities every day with honor and courage. Below are just a few areas, among many others, that concern me and warrant your rejection of these components of this bill:

(1)?Due Process for all police officers: Fair and equitable process under the law demands the same rights of appeal afforded to all citizens and fellow public servants. Due process should not be viewed as an arduous impediment, but favored as a bedrock principle of fundamental fairness, procedure and accountability.

(2)?Qualified Immunity: Qualified Immunity does not protect problem police officers. Qualified Immunity is extended to all public employees who act reasonably and in compliance with the rules and regulations of their respective departments, not just police officers. Qualified Immunity protects all public employees, as well as their municipalities, from frivolously lawsuits. This bill removes important liability protections essential for all public servants. Removing qualified immunity protections in this way will open officers, and other public employees to personal liabilities, causing significant financial burdens. This will impede future recruitment in all public fields: police officers, teachers, nurses, fire fighters, corrections officers, etc., as they are all directly affected by qualified immunity protections.

(3)?POSA Committee: The composition of the POSA Committee must include more rank-and-file police officers and experts in the law enforcement field. If you're going to regulate law enforcement, up to and including termination, you must understand law enforcement. The same way doctors oversee doctors, lawyers oversee lawyers, teachers oversee teachers, experts in law enforcement should oversee practitioners in law enforcement.

In closing, I remind you that those who protect and serve communities across Massachusetts are some of the most sophisticated and educated law enforcement officials in the nation. I again implore you to amend and correct S.2820 so as to treat the men and women in law enforcement with the respect and dignity they deserve.

Thank you,

Claude Lapointe

13 Bridge St. Millers Falls, Ma 01349

Claudelapointe@comcast.net

From: MB Smith <melissabowersmith@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 9:20 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Subject: S.2820: An Act to Save Black Lives by Transforming Public Safety

Chairman Michlewitz and Chairwoman Cronin,

Massachusetts can take a bold step towards ending systemic racism in policing by passing S. 2820, 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.

We need strong use of force guidelines for police in Massachusetts, public records of police misconduct, a duty to intervene policy, and bans on no-knock warrants, choke holds, tear gas, and other chemical weapons.

Please pass a bill that includes each of these critical reforms.

Melissa Smith

223 South St.

Hingham, MA 02043

From: Kozak, Kenneth E. <KozakKE@worcesterma.gov>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 9:20 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Subject: S2820

To: The Chair of the House Committee on Ways and Means, Representative Aaron Michlewitz

From: Ken Kozak, Worcester Police Officer, 508-799-8674 (extension 28228)

I respectfully request the House of Representatives to reject S2820.

The bill will seriously undermine public safety by limiting police officer's ability to do their jobs while simultaneously allowing provisions to protect criminals.

If the senate bill is passed in its current form, the cost to municipalities and the State will skyrocket from frivolous lawsuits and potentially having a devastating impact on budgets statewide.

Respectfully sent,

P.O. Ken Kozak

From: Paul Dabene <pdabene@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 9:19 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Subject: S.2820..

Good Morning,

I write to you today to express my strong opposition to many parts of the recently passed S.2820.

I am concerned at the expansion of this legislation, targeting fundamental protections such as due process and qualified immunity. This bill in its present form is troubling in many ways and will make an already dangerous and difficult job even more dangerous for the men and women in law enforcement who serve our communities every day with honor and courage. Below are just a few areas, among many others, that concern me and warrant your rejection of these components of this bill:

(1) Due Process for all police officers: Fair and equitable process under the law demands the same rights of appeal afforded to all citizens and fellow public servants. Due process should not be viewed as an arduous impediment, but favored as a bedrock principle of fundamental fairness, procedure and accountability.

(2) Qualified Immunity: Qualified Immunity does not protect problem police officers. Qualified Immunity is extended to all public employees who act reasonably and in compliance with the rules and regulations of their respective departments, not just police officers. Qualified Immunity protects all public employees, as well as their municipalities, from frivolous lawsuits. This bill removes important liability protections essential for all public servants. Removing qualified immunity protections in this way will open officers, and other public employees to personal liabilities, causing significant financial burdens. This will impede future recruitment in all public fields: police officers, teachers, nurses, fire fighters, corrections officers, etc., as they are all directly affected by qualified immunity protections.

(3) POSA Committee: The composition of the POSA Committee must include more rank-and-file police officers and experts in the law enforcement field. If you're going to regulate law enforcement, up to and including termination, you must understand law enforcement. The same way doctors oversee doctors, lawyers oversee lawyers, teachers oversee teachers, experts in law enforcement should oversee practitioners in law enforcement.

In closing, I remind you that those who protect and serve communities across Massachusetts are some of the most sophisticated and educated law enforcement officials in the nation. I again implore you to amend and correct S.2820 so as to treat the men and women in law enforcement with the respect and dignity they deserve.

Thank you,

Paul Dabene Jr.

1 North Bennet Court

Boston, MA 02113

From: sricco58@gmail.com

Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 9:19 AM

To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)

Subject: Police Reform

To: Representative Aaron Michlewitz, Chairperson, House Committee on Ways and Means

Representative Claire Cronin, Chairperson, Joint Committee on the Judiciary

Good Morning,

My name is Suzanne Ricco with the Greater Boston Interfaith Organization (GBIO). I live at 83 Wellington Hill Street, Boston, MA 02126. I am writing to urge you and the House to pass police reform that includes:

- * Implement Peace Officer Standards & Training with certification
- * Civil service access reform
- * Commission on structural racism
- * Clear statutory limits on police use of force
- * Qualified immunity reform

Thank you very much.

Suzanne E. Ricco

83 Wellington Hill Street

Boston, MA 02126

617-296-5883

Sent from my iPad

From: jgr2 books <jgr2books@gmail.com>

Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 9:19 AM

To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU); Mark, Paul - Rep. (HOU)

Subject: S 2820 concerns from a loyal constituent - please read!

Rep. Paul W. Mark

Dear Rep. Mark:

I write to you as a constituent and most importantly as a proud mother of two law enforcement officer sons, one serving the Town of Northampton and the other serving the Massachusetts State Police. I did not choose these careers for either son. The boys decided their own life paths, and I have supported their decisions always despite the anxiety and fears those decisions have added to my life. My fears for their safety (and their happiness) have never been more palpable than they are today. I fear

passage of S.2820 will only make things worse for them. Please consider the following as you begin debate in the House.

As your constituent, I write to you today to express my strong opposition to many parts of the recently passed S.2820. I hope that you will join me in prioritizing support for the establishment of a standards and accreditation committee, which includes increased transparency and reporting, as well as strong actions focused on the promotion of diversity and restrictions on excessive force. These goals are attainable and are needed now.

I am, however, concerned at the expansion of this legislation, targeting fundamental protections such as due process and qualified immunity. This bill in its present form is troubling in many ways and will make an already dangerous and difficult job even more dangerous for the men and women in law enforcement who serve our communities every day with honor and courage. Below are just a few areas, among many others, that concern me and warrant your rejection of these components of this bill:

(1) Due Process for all police officers: Fair and equitable process under the law demands the same rights of appeal afforded to all citizens and fellow public servants. Due process should not be viewed as an arduous impediment, but favored as a bedrock principle of fundamental fairness, procedure and accountability.

(2) Qualified Immunity: Qualified Immunity does not protect problem police officers. Qualified Immunity is extended to all public employees who act reasonably and in compliance with the rules and regulations of their respective departments, not just police officers. Qualified Immunity protects all public employees, as well as their municipalities, from frivolously lawsuits. This bill removes important liability protections essential for all public servants. Removing qualified immunity protections in this way will open officers, and other public employees to personal liabilities, causing significant financial burdens. This will impede future recruitment in all public fields: police officers, teachers, nurses, fire fighters, corrections officers, etc., as they are all directly affected by qualified immunity protections.

(3) POSA Committee: The composition of the POSA Committee must include more rank-and-file police officers and experts in the law enforcement field. If you're going to regulate law enforcement, up to and including termination, you must understand law enforcement. The same way doctors oversee doctors, lawyers oversee lawyers, teachers oversee teachers, experts in law enforcement should oversee practitioners in law enforcement.

In closing, I remind you that those who protect and serve communities across Massachusetts are some of the most sophisticated and educated law enforcement officials in the nation. I again implore you to amend and correct S.2820 so as to treat the men and women in law enforcement with the respect and dignity they deserve.

Thank you.
Joan Pack

31 East Street
Northfield, MA
413-834-3434

From: Sarah Halloran <sarah.marie.halloran@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 9:19 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Subject: Bill 2820

Hello,
I'm writing to offer my comments on Bill S.2820. I am thrilled that Massachusetts is taking a leadership position in re-balancing qualified immunity for police and other public employees. I am a municipal employee myself, and firmly believe that amending qualified immunity is one way that we can insure that state/city government works in the best interests of citizens. We need police accountability now-- please continue to prioritize these interests moving forward.

Sincerely,
Sarah

--

--

Sarah Halloran

Macalester College '10

From: Abbe Neumann <neumann.abbe@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 9:18 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Subject: Public Testimony Email, Police Reform

To: Representative Aaron Michlewitz, Chairperson, House Committee on Ways and Means

Representative Claire Cronin, Chairperson, Joint Committee on the Judiciary

Hello, my name is Abbe Neumann with the Greater Boston Interfaith Organization (GBIO). I live at 15 Ransom Road in Brighton, MA. I am writing to urge you and the House to pass police reform that includes:

- * Implement Peace Officer Standards & Training with certification
- * Civil service access reform
- * Commission on structural racism

- * Clear statutory limits on police use of force
- * Qualified immunity reform

Thank you very much.

Abb? Neumann

Neumann.Abbe@gmail.com

(617) 458-0492

15 Ransom Road, #1

Brighton, MA 02135

--

"Being ignorant is not so much a shame, as being unwilling to learn."
---Benjamin Franklin

Please be advised that I do not read or answer emails on Shabbat. I will reply to all emails after Shabbat. Thank you.

From: Grace Govatsos <gracephd@mac.com>

Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 9:18 AM

To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)

Subject: House Bill S2800

I am writing to you today to express my strong opposition to S.2800 which was passed by the Senate. I ask that you oppose this bill when it is debated in the House of Representatives. This bill is troubling in many ways and will make an already dangerous and difficult job even more dangerous for the men and women in law enforcement who serve our communities.

S2800 establishes a review committee board with overly broad powers, including the power of subpoena and in active investigations. Review boards typically review a process or an event after it has occurred for the purpose of implementing a change. Reviews should not be conducted during the course of an investigation as that would in all likelihood jeopardize the investigation. Why is this language part of the bill?

The current language sets the groundwork for unconstitutional violations of a police officer's 5th amendment right (see *Carney v. Springfield*) and constitutional protections against double jeopardy. Qualified immunity protections (which are really the hallmark of sound and reasonable protections against frivolous lawsuits) are removed and replaced with a "no reasonable defendant" qualifier. This removes important liability

protections for the police officers we send out to protect our communities and who often deal with the most dangerous of circumstances with little or no backup. Removing qualified immunity protections in this way will open up officers to personal liabilities the likes of which they cannot withstand. Current laws today adequately address any overreach by law enforcement officers.

I am also demanding that this bill be debated in the light of day and not in the cover of darkness. If you have to resort to sneaking a debate and vote in the middle of the night, then I assert it is "prima facie" a bad bill and "prima facie" bad faith on your part as my Representative.

In summary, I ask you set aside, for one moment, your partisan loyalties, then perhaps you will admit to yourself that it is a bad bill and bad policy. Furthermore, how can you or any other Representative reform something of which you know little about. Until and unless you have taken substantive police training, I would again ask that you oppose this bill. Passing a poor bill for the sake of passing a bill is not in the best interest of all citizens of Massachusetts.

For all the reasons stated above, I ask that you oppose this bill.

Sincerely,

Dr Grace Govatsos

44 Old Post Road East Walpole, MA 02032

From: Iueh Soh <iuehsoh@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 9:18 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Cc: Valerie Bonds; Shayok Chakraborty; Zienab Abdelgany
Subject: GBIO: Valerie Bonds Police ReformTestimony

To: Representative Aaron Michlewitz, Chairperson, House Committee on Ways and Means

Representative Claire Cronin, Chairperson, Joint Committee on the Judiciary

Hello, my name is Valerie A. Bonds with the Greater Boston Interfaith Organization and Alliance for Cambridge Tenants. I live at 808 Memorial Drive, Cambridge MA 02139. Please find below my public testimony I would like to submit to you.

My neighbors and I love to gather around the stoop of our apartments to chit chat and watch the children play. The day was pleasant. We wondered about the activities planned for the summer.

There seemed to be a raucous with a police officer and a young woman. The next moment police were everywhere. Families were trying to gather their children. I ran to get some of the children away from the scene. Police were grabbing children, teens and adults in the area.

When a police officer questioned me, I asked the police officer for his badge number. Before I knew what was happening I was slammed against the brick wall of the nearest building. My back and shoulder were hurting. I tried to ask the officer what had I done. A young boy came to my side. The police officer threw me to the side, arresting the young boy who simply stood beside me. He just wanted me to let him know I was okay.

I ended up appearing in court. The police officer addressed the court first. I could not believe he did not tell the truth. Guess I was naive at that time. I never knew a police officer would not tell the truth in court

The judge could see my despair and shock. I recess was taken and I was told to dismiss the case because I would be vulnerable. A single mother living alone. Not a wise position to be in especially pointing accusations in the direction of police.

I dropped the charges. I was afraid for my five year old son and I.

I believe in police reform. I believe that public safety must be administered by individuals who are not only certified but licensed as all professionals are required to be. Certification is indicative of the necessary training and skills required to be a police officer. The licensing of police officers requires mandated performance evaluation both must be successfully completed in order for license renewal.

I am writing to urge you and the House to pass police reform that includes:

- * Implement Peace Officer Standards & Training with certification
- * Civil service access reform
- * Commission on structural racism
- * Clear statutory limits on police use of force
- * Qualified immunity reform

Thank you very much.

Valerie A. Bonds

educatorvanbs@gmail.com

808 Memorial Drive, Cambridge MA 02139.

617-797-3465

From: Nichelle Sadler <nsadler@utecinc.org>

Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 9:18 AM

To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)

Subject: Expungement Testimony

7/17/20

Public Testimony on S.2800 to the House Ways and Means and Judiciary
Committees

Dear Chair Cronin, Chair Michlewitz, Vice Chair Day, and Vice Chair
Garlick,

I am writing to request your consideration to expand the existing
expungement law (MGL Ch 276, Section 100E) as the House takes up S.2800 to
address Racial Justice and Police Accountability. S.2800 includes this
expansion and we hope you will consider it as it directly relates to the
harm done by over-policing in communities of color and the over-
representation of young people of color in the criminal legal system.

Our criminal justice system is not immune to structural racism and we join
you and all members in the great work needed to set things right. The
unfortunate reality is that people of color are far more likely to be
subjected to stop and frisk and more likely to get arrested for the same
crimes committed by whites. Black youth are three times more likely to get
arrested than their white peers and Black residents are six times more
likely to go to jail in Massachusetts. Other systems where people of color
experience racism are exacerbated, and in many ways legitimized, by the
presence of a criminal record. Criminal records are meant to be a tool for
public safety but they're more often used as a tool to hold communities of
color back from their full economic potential. Expungement can be an
important tool to rectify the documented systemic racism at every point of
a young person's journey through and past our justice system.

We also know that young adults have the highest recidivism rate of any age
group, but that drops as they grow older and mature. The law, however,

does not allow for anyone who recidivates but eventually desists from reoffending to benefit. Young people's circumstances and cases are unique and the law aptly gives the court the discretion to approve expungement petitions on a case by case basis, yet the law also categorically disqualifies over 150 charges. We also know that anyone who is innocent of a crime should not have a record, but the current law doesn't distinguish between a dismissal and a conviction. It's for these three main reasons we write to you to champion these clarifications and now is the time to do it.

Since the overwhelming number of young people who become involved with the criminal justice system as an adolescent or young adult do so due to a variety of circumstances and since the overwhelming number of those young people grow up and move on with their lives, we are hoping to make clarifying changes to the law. We respectfully ask the law be clarified to:

- * Allow for recidivism by removing the limit to a single charge or incident. Some young people may need multiple chances to exit the criminal justice system and the overwhelming majority do and pose no risk to public safety.

- * Distinguish between dismissals and convictions because many young people get arrested and face charges that get dismissed. Those young people are innocent of crimes and they should not have a record to follow them forever.

- * Remove certain restrictions from the 150+ list of charges and allow for the court to do the work the law charges them to do on a case by case basis especially if the case is dismissed of the young person is otherwise found "not guilty."

Refining the law will adequately achieve the desired outcome from 2018: to reduce recidivism, to remove barriers to employment, education, and housing; and to allow people of color who are disproportionately represented in the criminal justice system and who disproportionately experience the collateral consequences of a criminal record the opportunity to move on with their lives and contribute in powerfully positive ways to the Commonwealth and the communities they live, work and raise families in. Within a system riddled with racial disparities, the final step in the process is to allow for as many people as possible who pose no risk to public safety and who are passionate to pursue a positive future, to achieve that full potential here in Massachusetts or anywhere.

Thank you for your consideration,

Nichelle Sadler

--

Nichelle Sadler | Director, UTEC Training Center for Excellence

UTEC | 978-856-3902 Ext: 740 | nsadler@utecinc.org
Programs: 35 Warren St. | Café UTEC: 41 Warren St.
Mailing: 15 Warren St., No. 3, Lowell, MA 01852

Join our enews <https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=http-3A__tinyurl.com_UTEC-2DENewsSignup&d=DwMFaQ&c=1DF7oMaPKXpkYvev9V-fVahWL0QWnGCCAfCDz1Bns_w&r=uoevGInjCfTlguYncQubxpi5R6db_gq1YmKr0SCk2EnIiuk13zIs16rchf_GkGDD&m=gBU1q9cMUNGFOWzWSYkn-S8fpg04Fm33rOc8nRN11F4&s=2JlRPdDsxoSVDctmfJbZEd3rHa_j0-N_Ams2Xs21c6w&e=>>
Give today to break barriers in 2020! www.UTECinc.org/donate
<https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=http-3A__www.utec-2Dlowell.org_donate&d=DwMFaQ&c=1DF7oMaPKXpkYvev9V-fVahWL0QWnGCCAfCDz1Bns_w&r=uoevGInjCfTlguYncQubxpi5R6db_gq1YmKr0SCk2EnIiuk13zIs16rchf_GkGDD&m=gBU1q9cMUNGFOWzWSYkn-S8fpg04Fm33rOc8nRN11F4&s=yzfQWx9AruiaNE_Dxthic-v6erGz_9v4U97M5UHOW14&e=>>

<https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__www.facebook.com_UTECinc_&d=DwMFaQ&c=1DF7oMaPKXpkYvev9V-fVahWL0QWnGCCAfCDz1Bns_w&r=uoevGInjCfTlguYncQubxpi5R6db_gq1YmKr0SCk2EnIiuk13zIs16rchf_GkGDD&m=gBU1q9cMUNGFOWzWSYkn-S8fpg04Fm33rOc8nRN11F4&s=ZWuyyavslKFUm2z1Ky01A8c_UZ5co8CVMW1ZZEcof74&e=>>
<https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__twitter.com_utec-5Finc&d=DwMFaQ&c=1DF7oMaPKXpkYvev9V-fVahWL0QWnGCCAfCDz1Bns_w&r=uoevGInjCfTlguYncQubxpi5R6db_gq1YmKr0SCk2EnIiuk13zIs16rchf_GkGDD&m=gBU1q9cMUNGFOWzWSYkn-S8fpg04Fm33rOc8nRN11F4&s=G7s5WjwTooVBrB8mc8UU4Pv_Uhp2nUtADHXvIYYGRB8&e=>>
<https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__www.linkedin.com_company_utecinc&d=DwMFaQ&c=1DF7oMaPKXpkYvev9V-fVahWL0QWnGCCAfCDz1Bns_w&r=uoevGInjCfTlguYncQubxpi5R6db_gq1YmKr0SCk2EnIiuk13zIs16rchf_GkGDD&m=gBU1q9cMUNGFOWzWSYkn-S8fpg04Fm33rOc8nRN11F4&s=VcH-0auZVKbNJEgYTqVtee6BIZWlVKBvLP2BuRsvLGw&e=>>

From: Mackin, Kristine <kmackin@city.waltham.ma.us>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 9:18 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Cc: Lawn, John - Rep. (HOU)
Subject: S2820 Bill

Hello Chairpersons Michlewitz and Cronin,

I am writing as Waltham's Ward 7 City Councillor in support of the S2820 bill, and concur in large part with the previous statement made by the Massachusetts Municipal Association in favor of S2800. It is especially

important that municipalities have the ability to act on misconduct from police departments and that the collective bargaining reforms stay in place in the House version of the bill.

I have two additional requests I would like the House to consider as they work with the current draft of the bill. First, although it was defeated in the Senate, I believe that Amendment 58 should be reconsidered. It is important to remove all chokeholds from police "toolkits," and not attempt to rationalize the reasons a person would forcibly cut off another's person's ability to breathe. Second, the legislation needs to take a stronger position to fully remove qualified immunity in Massachusetts. This legal practice needs to be completely ended in this state, so I ask that you strengthen the bill to ensure officers can be held fully accountable for their actions.

Thank you for your consideration.

Kristine Mackin

Councillor, Ward 7

Waltham, MA

Sent from my iPhone
From: Kaitlin Silva <kaitlintsilva@icloud.com>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 9:17 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Subject: Testimony S2800

My name is Kaitlin Silva and I am a resident of Bridgewater but more importantly I am a wife of an officer.

Please accept this testimony against implementing S2800. Not only will the passing of this bill directly impact our officers in blue and their family's it will have a greater impact against all civil servants across the commonwealth.

While I completely agree we should use this opportunity to improve policing procedures hastily passing a bill without public input is not the way. We are at a point in history we will be proud to look back upon.

This bill in its current form will open our officers up unlike any other profession. In light of recent events cities and towns across our nation are experiencing an influx of retirement applications. S2800 will surely lead to more officers retiring and prevent potential new officers from enduring this career path. Our cities and towns will experience a lack of qualified officers who are not covered by their town immunity.

I ask to to open this bill up and make some serious improvements with public input.

Respectfully,
Mrs. Kaitlin Silva, a police officers wife.
508-577-4453

From: Holly Moore <hollycruisel29@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 9:17 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Subject: Objections to S.2800 for House of Representatives Period of Open Comment

Representatives Michlewitz and Cronin
Massachusetts House of Representatives
24 Beacon Street
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Chairs Michlewitz and Cronin,

My name is Holly Moore and I live at 28 Ampere Avenue in Ludlow, Massachusetts.

I am writing to express my opposition to the current Senate bill S.2800, which was passed in the Massachusetts Senate this week and is being heard in the Massachusetts House of Representatives tomorrow for consideration.

My oppositions to this bill are very simple and straightforward. First, this bill will change the current legal standard of the Qualified Immunity doctrine in Massachusetts state courts. The present standard allows the courts to consider past precedent and established legal authority, and the information the public official possessed at the time of their alleged illegal action when determining whether the doctrine will apply to a public official defendant (most likely a police officer) before a case can go forward.

S.2800 would change the established legal standard to only allow the court to consider what every reasonable defendant would have understood as being illegal at the time of their alleged illegal action before allowing the case to go forward. This shift in legal doctrine would completely ignore the bedrock legal doctrine of stare decisis and legal precedent, and prohibit courts from benefiting from past decisions, both mandatory and persuasive, that would apply to the case at bar.

This will completely erode Qualified Immunity because it places far too much subjectivity into the decision whether to bring forward cause of action against a public employee. A finder of fact will be left to make their decisions in a vacuum, without the benefit of fairness and established legal precedents.

Secondly, I oppose S.2800 because of the changes it makes to the Massachusetts Civil Rights Act or "MCRA." Currently, under the MCRA, a plaintiff's case may only go forward against a public employee for acts that interfere with the exercise and enjoyment of [a citizen's] constitutional rights, as well as rights secured by the constitution or laws of the Commonwealth, where such interference of constitutional or statutory rights were achieved or attempted through threats, intimidation or coercion.

The proposed changes in § 10(b) of S.2800 completely delete the requirements of threats, intimidation and coercion be present in a public employee's alleged violation of the plaintiffs constitutional rights. This will, in effect, open the flood-gates for causes of action to be brought in Massachusetts state courts under the MCRA under this weakened standard. As you are aware, causes of action that lie under the MCRA are eligible for consideration of awarding attorney's fees if there is a favorable verdict for the plaintiff. What will stop unscrupulous plaintiffs and their attorneys from filing suit under this weakened standard in an attempt to exact a quick settlement that includes attorney's fees? The gatekeeper will be asleep at the wheel, as the finders of fact will have no way to dismiss these frivolous claims before they make their way into court.

Finally, please consider the families, children, spouses and public employees themselves when making your decisions regarding this piece of flawed legislation. Qualified Immunity was established to shield public employees who act in good faith from frivolous and exhortative law suits. The erosions of S.2800 place hardworking and dedicated public employees in a position where personal liability could apply in situations where it never should. Are their homes, college savings accounts, retirement accounts and personal assets so under-valued that they should be forfeited to settle damages in these cases? Our public employees, especially our police officers, deserve better.

I implore you to take more time and truly consider the far-reaching implications of this bill. There is no doubt that there are things that need to change in law enforcement, but this is not how they should change. A bill that is filed as a knee-jerk reaction in attempt to solve a real problem will only create more problems. Discussion, conversation, debate, opposition and objection, are all cornerstones to our democratic process. We must use them, even embrace them, in order to find a solution to police reform that is both meaningful and pragmatic.

Thank you for your time,

Holly (Cruise) Moore

Ludlow, MA

From: Rebekah McPheeters <rrmcpheeters@gmail.com>

Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 9:16 AM

To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)

Subject: Public Testimony/Police Reform

Dear Representative Aaron Michlewitz, Chairperson, House Committee on Ways and Means, Representative Claire Cronin, Chairperson, Joint Committee on the Judiciary,

Hello, my name is Rebekah McPheeters with the Greater Boston Interfaith Organization (GBIO). I live at 93 Rockland Ave in Malden. I am writing to urge you and the House to pass police reform that includes:

- Implement Peace Officer Standards & Training with certification
- Civil service access reform
- Commission on structural racism
- Clear statutory limits on police use of force
- Qualified immunity reform

Thank you very much.

Rebekah McPheeters

rrmcpheeters@gmail.com

781-420-5002

93 Rockland Ave, Malden

From: Martina Ryan <martinaryan19@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 9:16 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Subject: House bill S 2820

> ?I know the house says they have a different bill but looking at your bill it is actually worse than the senates. You will allow police to be personally sued even when they work within the law- the risk of liability is too high for anyone to continue in their job. Currently the immunity a police officer has allows them to only be protected if they work within the confines of their job and the law. If they work outside the law then they are not immune to the consequences and can be personally liable- so I do not understand what is the difference with the new change in the law? secondly I'd like to know who decides when a police officer works outside the law and who decides if he is immune. As a nurse I would not want a plumber deciding if what I did was within my scope of practice since he has no idea what I do for a living. On the other hand, I would never judge a doctor for malpractice if I didn't understand his practice and his training. Also for both these examples we carry professional liability insurance. There is no liability insurance for a police officer. Here is one example that makes me scared of this new law. A police officer arrives to a scene of a school bus accident- a fender bender but the bus driver is at fault. There are children on the bus and the police officer asked the bus driver for their license. She refuses. He calls the supervisor and the supervisor comes and asks for the license. The driver continues to refuse. Then she starts to fight the police officers so they place her under

arrest. They needed the license in order to file a report because there was children on board of a school bus. If that was your child would you want to know that the driver of that bus had been in an accident. It was brought to court and the judge threw out the case. The bus driver turned around and sued the police officer the supervisor and the city. This was deemed qualified immunity because they acted within the scope of the law but because the judge throughout the case which happens more frequently than not even in more serious charges she was able to sue and receive monetary damages. if this law goes through that means in this case, the driver could personally sue the officer. Even though they acted within the law, the judge threw out the case so she can sue. Who decides if he is immune? Judges? The DA? The panel of community members who have no law enforcement experience? I am not saying change is not needed. I am licensed and have to do a certain number of accreditation hours every two years. I agree that is important!! I agree that no one should be targeted due to the color of their skin. I agree that there are bad police just as there are bad nurses and doctors and teachers. As a nurse I would not work without insurance and protection from where I work. I still am held accountable if I act outside my practice but that doesn't seem to be the case here. I know you have a different bill than the senate but many good amendments were excluded. The amendments deal with due process and fair representation on the board as well as uniform accreditation standards. They also refused the need for education for the senate but require public employees to have that education- is that because elected officials do not need this education?

> Also a part that was taken out of the senate bill is included in yours- it allows any civilian to interfere if an officer that is using too much force. Do you know the consequences of this? Can you imagine how many people will assume anything is forceful and therefore attack the police office like what was done in NYC. The officer was placed in a Choke hold - the same one you deny officers to use if they are being attacked. So it is okay for myself as a civilian to resist arrest and attack the police and what do you think the police will do? Nothing - they are afraid to do anything. I ask again how many of you have risen with a police Officer in the worse areas of our city? How many of you understand their job? I am so afraid that this law will set us back decades in community policing. In Boston 2% of people commit the majority of the crimes. How much worse do you think crime will get when they know the police have their hands tied. Would you pass a law that would hold yourself liable and also risk an attack on yourself and your family. Politicians have no idea what police families have gone through. I support enhanced training and appropriate certification standards and policies that promote fair and unbiased treatment of all citizens, INCLUDING POLICE OFFICERS. Thank you for your time and consideration.

> Respectfully,

> Martina Ryan

> Sent from my iPhone

From: Nelson Zayas <neljr33@comcast.net>

Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 9:14 AM

To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)

Subject: S.2820

As your constituent, I write to you today to express my strong opposition to many parts of the recently passed S.2820. I hope that you will join me

in prioritizing support for the establishment of a standards and accreditation committee, which includes increased transparency and reporting, as well as strong actions focused on the promotion of diversity and restrictions on excessive force. These goals are attainable and are needed now.

I am, however, concerned at the expansion of this legislation, targeting fundamental protections such as due process and qualified immunity. This bill in its present form is troubling in many ways and will make an already dangerous and difficult job even more dangerous for the men and women in law enforcement who serve our communities every day with honor and courage. Below are just a few areas, among many others, that concern me and warrant your rejection of these components of this bill:

(1) Due Process for all police officers: Fair and equitable process under the law demands the same rights of appeal afforded to all citizens and fellow public servants. Due process should not be viewed as an arduous impediment, but favored as a bedrock principle of fundamental fairness, procedure and accountability.

(2) Qualified Immunity: Qualified Immunity does not protect problem police officers. Qualified Immunity is extended to all public employees who act reasonably and in compliance with the rules and regulations of their respective departments, not just police officers. Qualified Immunity protects all public employees, as well as their municipalities, from frivolously lawsuits. This bill removes important liability protections essential for all public servants. Removing qualified immunity protections in this way will open officers, and other public employees to personal liabilities, causing significant financial burdens. This will impede future recruitment in all public fields: police officers, teachers, nurses, fire fighters, corrections officers, etc., as they are all directly affected by qualified immunity protections.

(3) POSA Committee: The composition of the POSA Committee must include more rank-and-file police officers and experts in the law enforcement field. If you're going to regulate law enforcement, up to and including termination, you must understand law enforcement. The same way doctors oversee doctors, lawyers oversee lawyers, teachers oversee teachers, experts in law enforcement should oversee practitioners in law enforcement.

In closing, I remind you that those who protect and serve communities across Massachusetts are some of the most sophisticated and educated law enforcement officials in the nation. I again implore you to amend and correct S.2820 so as to treat the men and women in law enforcement with the respect and dignity they deserve.

Thank you,

Nelson Zayas Sr.
55 Angelica Drive
Springfield, MA 01129
413-342-1720

Sent from my iPhone

From: Vilma Cataldo <vilmacat@mac.com>

Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 9:16 AM

To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)

Subject: Against removing qualified immunity from law enforcement

I am against removing qualified immunity from law enforcement

Vilma Cataldo

280 Boylston Street

Chestnut hill, MA 02467

Vilmacat@mac.com

Sent from my iPhone

From: nhraymond@aol.com

Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 9:16 AM

To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)

Subject: Police Reform Bill

We are writing this to express our overwhelming concern about Senate bill S2800 (Police Reform Bill) currently in front of the House of Representatives. Between us we have served a total of 58 years with various agencies. Our experiences however do not bear up the publics perception of systemic racism within the ranks of the law enforcement community.

Given the current atmosphere within this country we do understand the legislatures desire to act upon this weighty matter. We need to understand and accept that we are all human beings. As such we will always suffer from weaknesses related to biases we individually develop. Secondly, when we mandate a portion of our society be empowered to "if necessary" use force to enforce the will of its society we will always have these problems. Human Nature!

The current Senate bill S2800 before you was passed in the middle of the night after a marathon session in the Senate. This matter is too important and costly to be pushed through in a haphazard fashion. It logically requires not only a public opportunity to weigh in, but more importantly the opportunity to have experts from all corners of this concerning topic be heard in order to craft effective and useful legislation. To "push" through legislation to leave an appearance of having done "something" does not do justice to any law. Emotional pendulum legislation is far too costly to its society before reaching any effective measure. Do not fall prey to this nonsense.

The most concerning elements of this bill for us involve qualified immunity and the effects it will have on hard working men and women in public safety and public service. When they become more consumed with worry about doing their jobs to avoid civil liability as opposed to in a good faith fashion, we create an environment where officers will be more prone to clean up messes left behind a criminal event than proactively heading off those criminal events. In the end it will disastrously affect the communities they police.

We are likewise concerned about a blanket approach to limiting officers abilities to use less than lethal tools. Thankfully during our tenure as police officers we never had to use lethal force. But we do not want to

see the advances that were made technologically over the years, merely be tossed aside because their use may have had negative effects at some point. Truth be told nothing is perfect, but to have options before resorting to lethal force is always the preferred methodology. One of us was also a K-9 handler for 25 years with one of the agencies we served. To see the possibility of that valued resource be so constrained would be crippling to the effectiveness of law enforcement. Don't put the officers in a position where no action or lethal force are their only perceived options.

We are also exceptionally concerned about any potential failure to insure that officers are properly afforded due process. We have watched the recent hysteria in this nation and the knee jerk reaction on the part of governmental authorities that clearly are acting without affording their officers such. In an appearance of placating the general public. Don't legislate in a fashion that would reinforce that.

Presently our police officers in the Commonwealth are very well educated and the training system has always evolved and will continue to do so. Do not legislate so ineffectively that you make it nearly impossible to either retain or recruit quality police officers. Take the time to get it right, don't act on hysteria! Remember this will have an enormous effect upon our communities!!

Neil and Cynthia Raymond

Retired (Massachusetts State Police), (US Navy Master at Arms)
413-243-0335

From: Merrill Forman <merrillforman@gmail.com>

Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 9:16 AM

To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)

Dear Chairman Aaron Michlewitz & Co-chair Rep. Claire Cronin:

My name is Merrill Forman. I am a resident of Boston and a member of March like a Mother: for Black Lives. I am writing this virtual testimony to urge you to pass SB.2800 the Reform, Shift, Build Act in its entirety. It is the minimum and the bill must leave the legislature in its entirety.

I support this bill because our current system is broken and change/reform is needed to ensure a more just world. I grew up the daughter of a police officer and understand the challenges inherent in this work, but it is time to reexamine our policies and institute systemic changes.

This bill bans chokeholds, promotes de-escalation tactics, certifies police officers, prohibits the use of facial recognition, limits qualified immunity for police, and redirects money from policing to community investment.

I urge you to ensure that all aspects of this bill are intact. We are in a historical moment and this bill ensures that we in Massachusetts meet the demand of this movement.

Thank you for your consideration of your request to give SB.2800 a favorable report.

Sincerely,

Merrill Forman

17 Kingsboro Park

Jamaica Plain, MA. 02130

March like a Mother: for Black Lives

From: Jaclyn Miller-Barbarow <jaclynmmb@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 9:16 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Subject: Pass SB.2800, Reform, Shift, Build Act

Dear Chairman Aaron Michlewitz & Co-chair Rep. Claire Cronin:

My name is Jaclyn Miller-Barbarow. I am a resident of the Hyde Park neighborhood in Boston and a member of March like a Mother: for Black Lives. I am writing this virtual testimony to urge you to pass SB.2800 the Reform, Shift, Build Act in its entirety. It is the minimum and the bill must leave the legislature in its entirety.

I support this bill because everyone deserves to be treated like a human being, with full dignity and response -- even when it's hard, and especially by the police. The problems in our society can't be choked out, and violence will only beget more violence. I would rather the police improve themselves, but if they won't, the legislature has to. This bill bans chokeholds, promotes de-escalation tactics, certifies police officers, prohibits the use of facial recognition, limits qualified immunity for police, and redirects money from policing to community investment.

I urge you to ensure that all aspects of this bill are intact. We are in a historical moment and this bill ensures that we in Massachusetts meet the demand of this movement.

Thank you for your consideration of your request to give SB.2800 a favorable report.

Sincerely,

Jaclyn Miller-Barbarow
63 Hallron St.
Hyde Park, MA 02136

March like a Mother: for Black Lives

From: Louis C Rosa <lourosa@mit.edu>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 9:16 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)

Subject: University Police Union Coalition Testimony Not In Favor of
Bill S. 2820

University Police Union Coalition

MIT Police Association, Harvard University Police Association, Boston
College Police Association, Boston University Police Association, Tufts
University Police Association and Northeastern University Police
Association

To the Honorable Members of the Massachusetts House of Representatives:

Police Officers within the University Police Union Coalition provide
public safety services at the six largest Universities in Eastern
Massachusetts. Our Coalition represents over 250 sworn law enforcement
Officers.

We are universally opposed to Massachusetts Senate Bill S. 2820 "police
reform" presently under consideration by the House of Representatives.
The reasons for this opposition is that we see Bill S. 2820 detrimental to
public safety in Higher Education Campus Law Enforcement, as well as all
Law Enforcement in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

This Bill lacks transparency for Law Enforcement Officers to have Due
Process and the Right of Appeal. Officers and their families will be
impacted the greatest from this Bill due to a loss of employment and the
degradation of their career path in Law Enforcement.

The measures under consideration are grounded in incidents of abuses in
other parts of our country. As deplorable as those are, there is simply
no body of evidence that compels drastic action at this time in
Massachusetts to eradicate non-existence abuse.

Passage of these measures under consideration are so lacking in due
process for police officers, so destabilizing to job security, and so
likely to leave police officers more vulnerable to violence, injury and
death from lawless elements.

We are urging the Massachusetts House of Representatives to not consider
Bill S. 2820 as it is currently constructed. The elimination of Qualified

Immunity and the lack of transparency in an appeals process needs to be replaced with new language that does offer Qualified Immunity and Due Process with the right of appeal for Officers.

We want to continue to serve our universities and their communities with the fair, compassionate and protective policing that has so consistently characterized our service over time. We urge you take a step back and allow for research, citizen input, debate, and thoughtful deliberation before you take extreme actions that may well have disastrous, unintended consequences.

Thank you,

Joseph S. West.

MIT Police Association

President

(Cell) 617-852-7627

jswest@mit.edu

David Sacco

MIT Police Association

Vice President

(Cell) 617-438-1583

dsacco@mit.edu

Louis Rosa

MIT Police Association

Secretary/Treasurer

(Cell) 617-852-0608

louroso@mit.edu

Santos Perez

Boston College Police Association

Union Steward Representative

(Cell) 617-828-8151

Santos.perez@bc.edu

Michael Allen

Harvard University Police Association

President

Michael_Allen@hupd.harvard.edu

(Cell) 617-512-4965

Joseph Steverman

Harvard University Police Association

Vice President

Joseph_steverman@hupd.harvard.edu

(Cell) 781-727-0285

Stephen Brown

Tufts University Police Association

Vice President

Stephen.brown@tufts.edu

(Cell) 978-375-4959

Glenn Lindsey

Northeastern University Police Association

Vice President

g.lindsey@northeastern.edu

(Cell) 774-210-0023

?

From: tia tmanchuso <tmanchuso@hotmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 9:15 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Subject: Reform Bill

Dear Chairs Michlewitz and Cronin,

My name is Tia Manchuso and I live at 51 Assabet Ave in Concord Massachusetts.

I am writing to express my opposition to the current Senate bill S.2800, which was passed in the Massachusetts Senate this week and is being heard in the Massachusetts House of Representatives tomorrow for consideration.

My oppositions to this bill are very simple and straight-forward. First, this bill will change the current legal standard of the Qualified Immunity doctrine in Massachusetts state courts. The present standard allows the courts to consider past precedent and established legal authority, and the information the public official possessed at the time of their alleged illegal action when determining

whether the doctrine will apply to a public official defendant (most likely a police officer) before a case can go forward.

S.2800 would change the established legal standard to only allow the court to consider what every reasonable defendant would have understood as being illegal at the time of their alleged illegal action before allowing the case to go forward. This shift in legal doctrine would completely ignore the bedrock legal doctrine of stare decisis and legal precedent, and prohibit courts from benefiting from past decisions, both mandatory and persuasive, that would apply to the case at bar.

This will completely erode Qualified Immunity because it places far too much subjectivity into the decision whether to bring forward cause of action against a public employee. A finder of fact will be left to make their decisions in a vacuum, without the benefit of fairness and established legal precedents.

Secondly, I oppose S.2800 because of the changes it makes to the Massachusetts Civil Rights Act or "MCRA." Currently, under the MCRA, a plaintiff's case may only go forward against a public employee for acts that interfere with the exercise and enjoyment of [a citizen's] constitutional rights, as well as rights secured by the constitution or laws of the Commonwealth, where such interference of constitutional or statutory rights were achieved or attempted through threats, intimidation or coercion.

The proposed changes in § 10(b) of S.2800 completely delete the requirements of threats, intimidation and coercion be present in a public employee's alleged violation of the plaintiffs constitutional rights. This will, in effect, open the flood-gates for causes of action to be brought in Massachusetts state courts under the MCRA under this weakened standard. As you are aware, causes of action that lie under the MCRA are eligible for consideration of awarding attorney's fees if there is a favorable verdict for the plaintiff. What will stop unscrupulous plaintiffs and their attorneys from filing suit under this weakened standard in an attempt to exact a quick settlement that includes attorney's fees? The gatekeeper will be asleep at the wheel, as the finders of fact will have no way to dismiss these frivolous claims before they make their way into court.

Finally, please consider the families, children, spouses and public employees themselves when making your decisions regarding this piece of flawed legislation. Qualified Immunity was established to shield public employees who act in good faith from frivolous and exhortative law suits. The erosions of S.2800 place hardworking and dedicated public employees in a position where personal liability could apply in situations where it never should. Are their homes, college savings accounts, retirement accounts and personal assets so under-valued that they should be forfeited to settle damages in these cases? Our public employees, especially our police officers, deserve better.

I implore you to take more time and truly consider the far-reaching implications of this bill. There is no doubt that there are things that

need to change in law enforcement, but this is not how they should change. A bill that is filed as a knee-jerk reaction in attempt to solve a real problem will only create more problems. Discussion, conversation, debate, opposition and objection, are all cornerstones to our democratic process. We must use them, even embrace them, in order to find a solution to police reform that is both meaningful and pragmatic.

Very truly yours,

Tia Manchuso

Tia Manchuso

51 Assabet Ave

Concord, MA, 01742

Respectfully,

Your Local 260 E-Board Members

***Disclaimer:

The information contained in this communication from the sender is confidential. It is intended solely for use by the recipient and others authorized to receive it. If you are not the recipient, you are hereby notified that any disclosure, copying, distribution or taking action in relation of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited and may be unlawful.

From: Hindy Tucker <hindym@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 9:15 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)

Subject: Police reform

To: Representative Aaron Michlewitz, Chairperson, House Committee on Ways and Means
Representative Claire Cronin, Chairperson, Joint Committee on the Judiciary

Hello, my name is Hindy Tucker, with the Greater Boston Interfaith Organization (GBIO). I live at 111 Hammond Road, Belmont, MA. I am writing to urge you and the House to pass police reform that includes:

- * Implement Peace Officer Standards & Training with certification
- * Civil service access reform
- * Commission on structural racism
- * Clear statutory limits on police use of force
- * Qualified immunity reform

Thank you very much.

Hindy Tucker
hindym@gmail.com
111 Hammond Rd, Belmont, MA 02478
617-283-5390
From: Jeremy Thompson <thompson.jeremyb@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 9:15 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Subject: Pass S.2800: Reform, Shift, Build Act

Dear Chairman Aaron Michlewitz & Co-chair Rep. Claire Cronin:

My name is Jeremy Thompson. I am a resident of Jamaica Plain. I am writing this virtual testimony to urge you to pass SB.2800 the Reform, Shift, Build Act in its entirety. It is the minimum and the bill must leave the legislature in its entirety.

This bill bans chokeholds, promotes de-escalation tactics, certifies police officers, prohibits the use of facial recognition, limits qualified immunity for police, and redirects money from policing to community investment.

I urge you to ensure that all aspects of this bill are intact. We are in a historical moment and this bill ensures that we in Massachusetts meet the demand of this movement.

Thank you for your consideration of your request to give SB.2800 a favorable report.

Sincerely,

Jeremy Thompson

19 Kingsboro Park #1

Jamaica Plain MA 02130

From: Chief Loring Barrett Jr. <lbarrett@ashburnham-ma.gov>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 9:15 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Cc: Zlotnik, Jon - Rep. (HOU); Gobi, Anne (SEN)
Subject: SB2820

Good Morning,

First, let me apologize for responding in an e-mail format, as I am out of the office and it is my only option. But, I felt I needed to respond on such an important issue facing the profession of policing. In May, I completed my 33 years in law enforcement and have been a police chief since 1998. I am a member and have been very active in many police organizations throughout my career and sit on the executive boards for the Central Ma Chiefs Association, the Ma Chiefs Association and the New England Chiefs Association.

Without getting into too much detail, I want to point out a few things:

- * No law enforcement officer that I know supports what happened to George Floyd and we condemn it.
- * I do support good thought out common sense changes to address real issues.
- * I do not feel that all police officers and police agencies should be vilified because of the actions of a few. This is not only unfair to the many great police officers in our state and country, but can and will have negative irreversible consequences to policing in general if passed as written.
- * Many of the suggested changes and additions in SB2820 in theory make sense and can be supported by members in our profession, but there are also areas that bring great concern and need to be amended or removed totally.

Therefore, I fully support the Ma Chief's Association's response to SB2820. I strongly suggest that something so important should not be rushed through this process, just because of pressure to get something done. Careful consideration and input and a common sense thorough process is needed in such an important Bill.

Thank you for taking the time in reading mine and I am sure many responses from law enforcement regarding SB2820.

Loring Barrett Jr.

Chief of Police

Ashburnham Police Department

99 Central Street

Ashburnham, Ma 01430

Tel. 978-827-4110 Fax. 978-827-5703

This e-mail message is confidential and/or privileged. It is to be used by the intended recipient only. Use of the information contained in this e-mail by anyone other than the intended recipient is strictly prohibited. If you have received this message in error, please notify the sender immediately and promptly destroy any record of this e-mail. When responding, please be advised that the Town of Ashburnham and the Secretary of State has determined that this e-mail could be considered a public record.

From: Edna Morse <elmo10188@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 9:15 AM
Cc: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Subject: Police Reform Bill

Good Morning:

I am just expressing my concerns over police reform. I agree reform and accountability is needed by all not just our police! There is corruption everywhere and we as a nation need to figure out how to fix.

Please, before you rule on anything take the time to figure out what is best for our city, state and country. We need to stop reacting before we truly figure what is best for all races. Just because some are more vocal and destructive until they get their way isn't a reason to turn against folks that are here to protect our great nation!

No one and/or organization is perfect; we need to built trust within our police department not hatred towards officers.

Thank you,

From: Emily Kibit <emilykibit@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 9:14 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Subject: STRONG OPPOSITION S.2820

Hello,

As your constituent, I write to you today to express my strong opposition to many parts of the recently passed S.2820. I hope that you will join me in prioritizing support for the establishment of a standards and accreditation committee, which includes increased transparency and reporting, as well as strong actions focused on the promotion of diversity and restrictions on excessive force. These goals are attainable and are needed now.

I am, however, concerned at the expansion of this legislation, targeting fundamental protections such as due process and qualified immunity. This bill in its present form is troubling in many ways and will make an already dangerous and difficult job even more dangerous for the men and women in law enforcement who serve our communities every day with honor and courage. Below are just a few areas, among many others, that concern me and warrant your rejection of these components of this bill:

(1)?Due Process for all police officers: Fair and equitable process under the law demands the same rights of appeal afforded to all citizens and fellow public servants. Due process should not be viewed as an arduous impediment, but favored as a bedrock principle of fundamental fairness, procedure and accountability.

(2)?Qualified Immunity: Qualified Immunity does not protect problem police officers. Qualified Immunity is extended to all public employees who act reasonably and in compliance with the rules and regulations of their respective departments, not just police officers. Qualified Immunity protects all public employees, as well as their municipalities, from frivolously lawsuits. This bill removes important liability protections essential for all public servants. Removing qualified immunity protections in this way will open officers, and other public

employees to personal liabilities, causing significant financial burdens. This will impede future recruitment in all public fields: police officers, teachers, nurses, fire fighters, corrections officers, etc., as they are all directly affected by qualified immunity protections.

(3)?POSA Committee: The composition of the POSA Committee must include more rank-and-file police officers and experts in the law enforcement field. If you're going to regulate law enforcement, up to and including termination, you must understand law enforcement. The same way doctors oversee doctors, lawyers oversee lawyers, teachers oversee teachers, experts in law enforcement should oversee practitioners in law enforcement.

In closing, I remind you that those who protect and serve communities across Massachusetts are some of the most sophisticated and educated law enforcement officials in the nation. I again implore you to amend and correct S.2820 so as to treat the men and women in law enforcement with the respect and dignity they deserve.

Emily Holland
288 Greene Street
North Andover, MA 01845

Sent from my iPhone

Sent from my iPhoneFrom: Pinkham, John (POL)
<john.pinkham@pol.state.ma.us>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 9:14 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Subject: Bill S.2820 section 18

Greetings,

I am concerned about many aspects of S.2820, including the composition of oversight committees and qualified immunity, however my main concern is about the possible impact on morale of appointing a Colonel from outside the State Police.

Prior to consolidation in 1992, the State Police had a sworn Colonel and a civilian Commissioner. This is the same model that the Connecticut State Police currently uses. Separating the duties of the Colonel and Superintendent would allow new leadership into the department, while preserving the esprit de corp that comes from knowing everybody that wears the uniform has come from the same roots.

I respectfully request that the language of Section 18 replace the word "Colonel" with "Superintendent," and strike the language about the appointment being as a uniformed member of the Department.

Sincerely,

John D. Pinkham

83G Bear Mountain Dr

Ashfield, MA 01330

413-824-0398

From: Marcia Hams <marciahams@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 9:14 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Subject: Testimony in favor of police reform

To: Representative Aaron Michlewitz, Chairperson, House Committee on Ways and Means

Representative Claire Cronin, Chairperson, Joint Committee on the Judiciary

Hello, my name is Marcia Hams with the Greater Boston Interfaith Organization (GBIO). I live at 95 Clifton St., Cambridge, MA.

We have an opportunity as a community to begin to address the deeply rooted problem of racism in policing that led to the tragic deaths of George Floyd and so many other people of color across the country at the hands of police, as well as the daily fear, arrests and insults that people of color endure as a result of unfair policing policies.

I am white, but I personally know people of color that have been stopped by police constantly while driving to their home in Cambridge, questioned by police while walking in their own Newton neighborhood and in Cambridge, and confronted and questioned by security people in stores in the Berkshires and Harvard Square. To put a stop to these dangerous inequities, the policies of law enforcement must be fundamentally reformed.

I am writing to urge you and the House to pass police reform that includes:

- * Implement Peace Officer Standards & Training with certification
- * Civil service access reform
- * Commission on structural racism
- * Clear statutory limits on police use of force
- * Qualified immunity reform

Thank you very much.

Marcia Hams

marciahams@gmail.com

617-233-5344

95 Clifton St. , Cambridge, MA 02140

From: Rosalind Joffe <rosalind@cicoach.com>
 Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 9:13 AM
 To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
 Subject: Pass police reform

To: Representative Aaron Michlewitz, Chairperson, House Committee on Ways and Means

Representative Claire Cronin, Chairperson, Joint Committee on the Judiciary

Hello,

I am Rosalind Joffe with the Greater Boston Interfaith Organization (GBIO). I live at 287 Langlely Rd, Unit 42, Newton . I am writing to urge you and the House to pass police reform that includes:

- * Implement Peace Officer Standards & Training with certification
- * Civil service access reform
- * Commission on structural racism

- * Clear statutory limits on police use of force
- * Qualified immunity reform

Thank you very much.

Rosalind Joffe

Rosalind@ciCoach.com

617 969 5653

287 Langley Road, Unit 42, Newton, MA 02459

From: Brenden F. Greene <bgreene@norwoodma.gov>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 9:14 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Subject: Reform Bill

I am writing to you today as a police officer who is asking for you to take a moment and really think about this bill. Police officers here in Massachusetts are being vilified for the actions of others that we had no part in. The media has stirred up a frenzy amongst the public and is attempting to create a larger divide amongst the public and those of us who have sworn to protect them. Our politicians are currently in the process of extending that gap even further.

I have heard many arguments about the defund the police movement. Politicians say that budget restrictions and cuts haven't been implemented yet so they can't be to blame for a rise in violent crimes across the country. While cuts have not been in place yet I want you to imagine this. Imagine working a job where each day the media paints a picture of you being racist, discriminatory, power hungry and abusive. This picture is not based off the whole but based off an extremely small amount of officers, a literal handful. Yet the police continue to answer the call when someone needs help. Even while trying to help others we receive criticism and abuse both verbal and physical from random strangers and passerby purely because of the uniform we have on. Do you think that would affect your job performance? How about if I told you hey we are going to defend you and eventually put you out of a job? Do you think that makes officers want to perform to their highest standard? Do you think that makes young adults want to get into the field of policing?

These reforms, cuts and the negative narrative being pushed are going to produce less qualified candidates because people do not want to be police officers. Yet whose fault will it be in the future when those officers make mistakes? will it be the politicians who and public that pushed for budget cuts that led to less training and less qualified candidates? No it wont. The public will always continue to expect more from us with less.

Police officers are not perfect. No one is. Everyday officers are forced to make split second decisions and then forced to live with the consequences after people sit back and review their decisions. We do the best we can with what we have. How many times have you been in a life or death situation? How many times have you had to fight with a violent felon who is refusing to comply with commands and starts reaching for some unknown item? The point being is with the committee this bill is requesting, the committee is going to have the ability to dissect an officers split second decision. Except they will be doing it in a nice comfy room all the while they havent had any training or experience in those situations. How does that make sense? In no other field would we expect people with no experience or training to judge those decisions. Imagine if i was reviewing a medical procedure that went wrong? Or a teachers failed school curriculum? Or a lawyer who failed to represent a client correctly? How can someone with no training and experience in law enforcement judge and have the power to revoke their certification?

I plead with you to please sit back and sit about the future. Think about how this bill will not only affect todays law enforcement but the future of law enforcement. You want changes and so does the public. But is this the right way to do it?

Thank you

Brenden Greene
Detective
Norwood Police Department

Work 781-440-5195
Cell 617-640-0362
FAX 781-440-5184
From: Chris Sanderson <csanderson517@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 9:13 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Subject: S2820

To Whom it May Concern,

My name is Chris Sanderson, I am a resident of the Town of Abington. I am married and have 3 children with another due in October. Also I am a police officer. I am always a police officer on and off duty, this isn't something I can put down when I go home from work. I reside in the same town I work. This has its benefits, but also its drawbacks. There are

people who I have had to arrest and seen later with my family. I have never had a negative issue during those circumstances, and you want to know why? I do my job to the best of my ability and treat people with respect.

With the proposal of this bill, I feel like there is a black cloud over my profession. An incident occurred 1500 miles away, it was egregious but its important to know that was an incident where someone made a very poor choice and is being held accountable for his actions. This proposed bill would not change the those circumstances. If an officer commits an act like that Qualified Immunity would not protect him, he made a decision which he has to deal with, there should not be a punishment for police officers because of this. Thousands of police officers have been injured since this started, some have paid the ultimate sacrifice. Having police officers walk on egg shells with this new proposed bill will not only hurt us as a profession but will reduce the quality of life across the state. Police officer want to go home at the end of their shift, not all of us are able to and with this bill we already have to make split second decisions to make sure we get home, now we also will have to worry about financially be held liable if we are acting in the best interests and good faith. The worst part is we will not have the same due process as the criminals we arrest. We will have no way of standing up for ourselves. This bill creates a board of non law enforcement personnel who likely have not been trained in use of force continuum, nor have ever been in the shoes of an officer making a split second decision. I'm sure Michael Chesna wanted to make it home to his family instead he was assaulted and killed by what the media would have classified as an "unarmed" individual who was "only throwing rocks".

This bill will only hurt public safety. I am all for reform, we are public servants here to serve the publics needs. We enforce laws that are placed on the table by legislature. We are the face of the issues we face as a society, its easy to point fingers at police officer because they are out there day in and day out within communities trying to make them a better place. Reform can be had but not with this proposed bill. Massachusetts is far and away more trained than other states, and has made many advancements in the way we are trained when on the job. I appreciate the hard work done to write this bill, but there needs to be more research done, look at the numbers out there and then look at what we are doing day in and day out. This should not be a knee jerk reaction to something that happened 1500 miles away. Take your time and get this RIGHT.

Thank you for taking the time to read this.

Respectfully,

Chris Sanderson
From: Beth <pokaski@comcast.net>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 9:13 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Subject: Police Reform

Good morning, I am writing today to express my disappointment with what occurred regarding the police reform bill. No public hearings? Passed in the middle of the night? I'm concerned about the consequences of this bill. I think passing it, as is, is a knee jerk reaction. If you didn't rush this through and you actually spoke to the people you represent, I think they would share some of the same reservations that I have with the bill. Everyone I talk to supports the police, but I suppose they aren't being loud enough to be paid attention to. Please, Support the Police!!!!!!!

Beth Leary
Registered Voter
100 Myrtlebank Avenue
Dorchester MA 02124
617-438-5085

Sent from my iPhone
From: Lori Berry <loriabramsberry@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 9:13 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Subject: Police Reform

To: Representative Aaron Michlewitz, Chairperson, House Committee on Ways and Means
Representative Claire Cronin, Chairperson, Joint Committee on the Judiciary

Hello, my name is Lori Berry, with the Greater Boston Interfaith Organization (GBIO). I live at 201 Freeman Street in Brookline. I am writing to urge you and the House to pass police reform that includes:

- * Implement Peace Officer Standards & Training with certification
- * Civil service access reform
- * Commission on structural racism
- * Clear statutory limits on police use of force
- * Qualified immunity reform

Thank you very much.

Lori Berry
Loriabramsberry@gmail.com
From: Kathleen Fox <kathfox@verizon.net>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 9:12 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Cc: Dooley, Shawn - Rep. (HOU)

Subject: S2800

My now deceased older brother was a police sergeant with some of his years being spent as a court officer. I have a nephew who is a policeman, and a great nephew and a friend who are state policemen. A grandson schooled in criminal justice but did not follow his dream because his wife did not want to live with not knowing whether or not he would return from work each day. I've heard the stories of what actually goes on, not what the media portrays. Our law enforcement people need support, not more restrictions placed on them. My granddaughter is an EMT. Recently she was called by a mother to transport to the hospital an adult son who had not taken his psych medicines. He was a strong, angry person. When the EMT's arrived, the person was in the middle of the street yelling at and chest bumping a policeman. People were on both sides of the street and on apartment balconies with their cameras out videotaping what was going on. Spectators were yelling, telling policemen what they should or shouldn't do. How many of us would like to be working under those conditions? I thank God for those who are willing to put their lives on the line every single day to care for us and protect us. They are good people. I do not want them to retire early, switch to alternate careers, or simply look the other way because enforcing the law will mean putting their livelihood in jeopardy. I beg you not to pass S2800.

Kathleen Fox
61 Boardman Street
Norfolk

Sent from my iPhone

From: Christopher Panarello <chrispan@charter.net>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 9:12 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Subject: Police reform

Hi my name is Christopher Panarello and I am a 25 year veteran of the Worcester police department. I am writing to you to express my serious concern for the recently passed senate police reform bill. There are numerous issues that I as a police officer and union member have with the bill. It is anti labor legislation. It removes our rights to due process, collective bargaining & inserts a board that has no training, experience or background in law enforcement to review police actions. This bill will in turn hurt all union members across the commonwealth, if police aren't protected what's to stop others from stripping teachers, firefighters or any other union member of lawfully negotiated rights? I feel this bill is political pandering by many to score points at the expense of the easy target - police officers. No one is saying George Floyd's death was not abhorrent but that was in Minnesota. Massachusetts has the most well trained police officers in the country, and if people behind this legislation took the time to do a little research they would realize that. Massachusetts police aren't killing people in the streets, it's a lie. The only thing this will do is make it harder to find good people to do this

job. And in the end the people who really need the us aren't going to have them and that's the real shame

Chris Panarello

Sent from my iPhone

From: Peter Sherber <peter.sherber@verizon.net>

Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 9:11 AM

To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)

Subject: Please Support the Police

My family, friends, neighbors and I support our police and are appalled that police officers are currently being vilified and scapegoated. The vocal few don't accurately represent the overwhelming majority of your constituents who love America and support our police.

Taking away police officers' basic legal and job protections like qualified immunity and due process rights will only make our communities less safe, cause crime to increase and sink property values.

Police officers cannot effectively do their jobs if they're at risk of being sued or fired for every difficult decision they have to make.

It has also come to my attention that the senate's language on qualified immunity could adversely impact teachers, nurses, corrections and firefighters. This is unacceptable.

Finally, the proposed police officer standards and accreditation committee needs more rank-and-file police officers included on the panel. Rank-and-file police officers better understand the perspective of the reasonable officer on the scene better than someone with zero law enforcement experience or a political appointee beholden to public pressure.

Please stand with our police officers and the overwhelming majority of your constituents who support our police and vote.

Thank you for taking my testimony.

Sincerely,

Peter C. Sherber

Nahant, MA 01908 <x-apple-data-detectors://0/1>

Sent from my iPhone

From: Ethlyn Davis Fuller <2014ethlyn@gmail.com>

Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 9:11 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Subject: Strong Police Reform

Hello, my name is Ethlyn Davis Fuller with the Greater Boston Interfaith Organization (GBIO). I live at 8 Auburn Court in Brookline, Mass 02446.

1. Implement Peace Officer Standards & Training with certification
2. Civil service access reform
3. Commission on Structural racism
4. Clear statutory limits on police use of force
5. Qualified immunity reform

Thank you very much

Name Ethlyn Davis Fuller

Email address 2014ethlyn@gmail.com

Phone 617-739-5939

Voting Address 8 Auburn Court #1 Brookline, Ma. 02446

Precinct seven

From: rterriol@verizon.net

Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 9:10 AM

To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)

Cc: Campbell, Linda D. - Rep. (HOU)

Subject: Police Reform Bill

Hello,

As a teacher, now retired, I was required to certify every five years by accumulating course and/or workshop credits, this would be a good idea, including physical requirements, for police officers to remain current in their respective fields.

As far as making police liable for "excessive force" I believe that this may hamper men and women of the police department from making the correct judgements on how to handle an unruly suspect. Their own safety may be in jeopardy if the thought of litigation would affect their judgements.

Thank you for taking these ideas into consideration.

Robert Theriault

46 Hidden Rd.

Methuen, Ma.

From: Steve Seermon <steve.seermon@gmail.com>

Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 9:10 AM

To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)

Subject: SB 2820

Dear Chair Michlewitz and Chair Cronin,

My name is Steven Seermon and I live at 49 Dean St. Mansfield, MA. I work at MCI-Cedar Junction and am a Correction Officer. As a constituent, I write to express my opposition to Senate Bill 2820. This legislation is detrimental to police and correction officers who work every day to keep the people of the Commonwealth safe. In 2019 the Criminal Justice System

went through reform. That reform took several years to develop. I am dismayed in the hastiness that this bill was passed but I welcome the opportunity to tell you how this bill turns its back on the very men and women who serve the public.

Qualified Immunity: Qualified immunity doesn't protect officers who break the law or violate someone's civil rights. Qualified immunity protects officers who did not clearly violate statutory policy or constitutional rights. The erasure of this would open up the flood gates for frivolous lawsuits causing officers to acquire additional insurance and tying up the justice system costing the Commonwealth millions of dollars to process such frivolous lawsuits.

Less Than Lethal Tools: The fact that you want to take away an Officer's use of pepper spray, impact weapons and K9 would leave no other option than to go from yelling "Stop", to hands on tactics and/or using your firearm. We are all for de-escalation but if you take away these tools the amount of injuries and deaths would without a doubt rise.

Civilian Oversight: While we are held to a higher standard than others in the community, to have an oversight committee made of people who have never worn the uniform, including an ex convicted felon is completely unnecessary and irresponsible. When this oversight board hears testimony where are the officer's rights under our collective bargaining agreement? Where are our rights to due process? What is the appeal process? These are things that have never been heard or explained to me. The need for responsible and qualified individuals on any committee should be first and foremost.

I am asking you to stop and think about the rush to reform police and corrections in such haste. Our officers are some of the best and well-trained officers anywhere. Although, while we are not opposed to getting better, it should be done with dignity and respect for the men and women who serve the Commonwealth. I ask that you think about the police officer you need to keep your streets safe from violence, and don't dismantle proven community policing practices. I would also ask that you think about the correction officer alone in a cell block, surrounded by up to one hundred inmates, not knowing when violence could erupt. I'm asking for your support and ensuring that whatever reform is passed, that you do it responsibly. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Steven Seermon

Sent from my iPhone From: Brian Henault <brianh@admin.umass.edu>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 9:10 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Subject: Objection to S.2820

Representatives Michlewitz and Cronin, Committee Chairs

Massachusetts House of Representatives

24 Beacon Street

Boston, MA 02133

Representatives Michlewitz and Cronin,

My name is Brian Henault, and my residence is at 37 Chartier Drive in Belchertown, Massachusetts. I am currently a Lieutenant with the University of Massachusetts/Amherst Police Department and have been employed as a police officer by that agency for the last twenty-five years.

I am writing to express my opposition to Senate bill S.2800, now S.2820. While the bill, in my opinion, does contain changes that I see as valuable - an overhaul of the training practices across the state, and a more professional and stringent certification/licensing process among them - it also contains changes, specifically to the practice of qualified immunity, that I see as extremely limiting and potentially even dangerous to police officers.

Currently, police officers, along with all public officials, cannot be held individually liable for actions taken in good faith that they reasonably see as lawful at the time. Eroding qualified immunity would put officers in a position where, while they are making split-second decisions under often trying and hazardous conditions, they would also possibly be factoring in the impact of potential litigation as a result of their actions. Will officers even want to take action on many occasions, knowing that an unscrupulous subject who may have an equally unscrupulous attorney will try to take from them their houses, their property, the assets that their families depend on? The hesitation that these issues create can easily result in officer injury or death, or the same to those whom they are trying to protect.

I would urge you to consider that rather than exposing our officers to what will likely be a barrage of frivolous lawsuits due to the erosion of qualified immunity, we use the other ideas in this bill as the impetus behind meaningful change in the training and deployment of our officers. Use the establishment of a POST system as the starting point of a hard look at how our officers are being trained, and dedicate appropriate resources to ensuring that the training of the officers reflects the expectations of our citizens.

The current actions and practices of police officers in Massachusetts are those that have been trained and developed over the years under the watch

of our Governors, Senators, Representatives, Mayors, and City/Town Councils. If those practices are now deemed unsatisfactory, then we all need to work together to train and develop a new paradigm. That will take time and effort, and it is a worthwhile effort in the long-term. However, S.2820 seems designed to simply pacify loud voices in the short term.

I spend each shift with hard-working, thoughtful co-workers who have worked to develop successful relationships within our community, and I know that the vast majority of police officers in this state are doing the same within their communities. Reform, that provides us with better tools and ideas to improve, is always welcome. Reform, that negatively impacts those same hard-working officers, especially being carried out in this rushed fashion, can only result in deeper problems down the road.

I thank you for your time and consideration in this matter.

Respectfully,

Brian Henault

Lt Brian Henault ID#111

University of Massachusetts at Amherst Police Department

585 East Pleasant St, Amherst MA 01003

Office: (413) 545-8095

From: dnoll@bostonproductions.com
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 9:09 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Subject: Police Immunity

Rep. Michlewitz and Rep Claire Cronin,

Please do not limit the qualified immunity provision for our Law enforcement officers. This is a ridiculous overreach and will lead to many police officers retiring as they are doing in droves in New York. There will be fewer men and women that are willing to join the police force and

the public will not have the level of protection we are entitled to. WE pay taxes to the state to ensure our safety and that is a key responsibility of the state. PLEASE do not turn us into New York! Your constituents fully support the police and as the senate passed this bill in the middle of the night with no public input is shameful.

I also believe that limiting school police officers I believe is a mistake. Many DARE officers have contributed immensely to reducing drug abuse and addiction among our students. This is just another move to insinuate that "police are bad and we don't want our students to interact with them." It will only be a matter of time before they are pushed out of our schools permanently. This is NOT good policy. Law enforcement connecting with our children early on and building trust and good relationships with law enforcement has been proven successful!

I am also dismayed that three of our senators voted "present." Do your jobs and take a stand.

Deb Noll

--

boston productions inc. | 290 vanderbilt avenue, suite 1 | norwood ma 02062

www.bostonproductions.com
<https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=http-3A__www.bostonproductions.com&d=DwIFaQ&c=lDF7oMaPKXpkYvev9V-fVahWL0QWnGCCAfCDz1Bns_w&r=uoevGInjCfTlguYncQubxpi5R6db_gq1YmKr0SCk2EnIiuk13zIs16rchf_GkGDD&m=yjK5cu4hplKJau0YCKfQF1ePjxHKANTnTcJ-nMIAIe0&s=iRj_oDhXV6OR2NbRgtFpiun3wHFZSvGbVNabl--A0BE&e= > |
www.facebook.com/imaginewhatwedo
<https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=http-3A__www.facebook.com_imaginewhatwedo&d=DwIFaQ&c=lDF7oMaPKXpkYvev9V-fVahWL0QWnGCCAfCDz1Bns_w&r=uoevGInjCfTlguYncQubxpi5R6db_gq1YmKr0SCk2EnIiuk13zIs16rchf_GkGDD&m=yjK5cu4hplKJau0YCKfQF1ePjxHKANTnTcJ-nMIAIe0&s=d-WIpelaOmUO3ec-T2btBUoLswDft-0I6RDy4tYlC9E&e= >
From: Corinne Riley <corinneriles@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 9:09 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Subject: Police Reform

Please take time to review all that hastily got voted on the Police Reform Bill in the Senate. Knee jerk reactions are never the answer. Please do the right thing, especially public input on this matter to hear from those it affects the most.

Thank you,
Corinne Riley
Saugus, MA

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

<https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__go.onelink.me_107872968-3Fpid-3DInProduct-26c-3DGlobal-5FInternal-5FYGrowth-5FAndroidEmailSig-5F-5FAndroidUsers-26af-5Fwl-3Dym-26af-5Fsub1-3DInternal-26af-5Fsub2-3DGlobal-5FYGrowth-26af-5Fsub3-3DEmailSignature&d=DwMCaQ&c=1DF7oMaPKXpkYvev9V-fVahWL0QWnGCCAfCDz1Bns_w&r=uoevGInjCfTlguYncQubxpi5R6db_gq1YmKr0SCk2EnIiuk13zIs16rchf_GkGDD&m=9qOtEXxJq4-tYzINWsTu_k-kSzkU5iR0Omg7bYA3BGM&s=gNRc2balc_9uAC0-ulHaTBndOV50co6E7igxjtAIq-s&e=>
From: Tim Landers <landerstnkb@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 9:09 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Subject: Opposition to Senate Bill S.2800

??

Representatives Michlewitz and Cronin
Massachusetts House of Representatives

24 Beacon Street <x-apple-data-detectors://2>

Boston, MA 02133 <x-apple-data-detectors://3>

Dear Chairs Michlewitz and Cronin,

My name is Timothy Landers and I live at 105 Summer St. in Maynard
Massachusetts.

I am writing to express my opposition to the current Senate bill S.2800,
which was passed in the Massachusetts Senate this week and is being heard
in the Massachusetts House of Representatives tomorrow for consideration.

My oppositions to this bill are very simple and straight-
forward. First, this bill will change the current legal standard of the
Qualified Immunity doctrine in Massachusetts state courts. The present
standard allows the courts to consider past precedent and established
legal authority, and the information the public official possessed at the
time of their alleged illegal action when determining whether the doctrine
will apply to a public official defendant (most likely a police officer)
before a case can go forward.

S.2800 would change the established legal standard to only
allow the court to consider what every reasonable defendant would have
understood as being illegal at the time of their alleged illegal action
before allowing the case to go forward. This shift in legal doctrine would
completely ignore the bedrock legal doctrine of stare decisis and legal
precedent, and prohibit courts from benefiting from past decisions, both
mandatory and persuasive, that would apply to the case at bar.

This will completely erode Qualified Immunity because it places far too much subjectivity into the decision whether to bring forward cause of action against a public employee. A finder of fact will be left to make their decisions in a vacuum, without the benefit of fairness and established legal precedents.

Secondly, I oppose S.2800 because of the changes it makes to the Massachusetts Civil Rights Act or "MCRA." Currently, under the MCRA, a plaintiff's case may only go forward against a public employee for acts that interfere with the exercise and enjoyment of [a citizen's] constitutional rights, as well as rights secured by the constitution or laws of the Commonwealth, where such interference of constitutional or statutory rights were achieved or attempted through threats, intimidation or coercion.

The proposed changes in § 10(b) of S.2800 completely delete the requirements of threats, intimidation and coercion be present in a public employee's alleged violation of the plaintiffs constitutional rights. This will, in effect, open the flood-gates for causes of action to be brought in Massachusetts state courts under the MCRA under this weakened standard. As you are aware, causes of action that lie under the MCRA are eligible for consideration of awarding attorney's fees if there is a favorable verdict for the plaintiff. What will stop unscrupulous plaintiffs and their attorneys from filing suit under this weakened standard in an attempt to exact a quick settlement that includes attorney's fees? The gatekeeper will be asleep at the wheel, as the finders of fact will have no way to dismiss these frivolous claims before they make their way into court.

Finally, please consider the families, children, spouses and public employees themselves when making your decisions regarding this piece of flawed legislation. Qualified Immunity was established to shield public employees who act in good faith from frivolous and exhortative law suits. The erosions of S.2800 place hardworking and dedicated public employees in a position where personal liability could apply in situations where it never should. Are their homes, college savings accounts, retirement accounts and personal assets so under-valued that they should be forfeited to settle damages in these cases? Our public employees, especially our police officers, deserve better.

I implore you to take more time and truly consider the far-reaching implications of this bill. There is no doubt that there are things that need to change in law enforcement, but this is not how they should change. A bill that is filed as a knee-jerk reaction in attempt to solve a real problem will only create more problems. Discussion, conversation, debate, opposition and objection, are all cornerstones to our democratic process. We must use them, even embrace them, in order to find a solution to police reform that is both meaningful and pragmatic.

Very truly yours,

Timothy R. Landers

105 Summer St.

Maynard, MA 01754

Sent from my iPhone

From: David bolvin <dbolvin7@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 9:09 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Subject: testimony

As your constituent, I write to you today to express my strong opposition to many parts of the recently passed S.2820. I hope that you will join me in prioritizing support for the establishment of a standards and accreditation committee, which includes increased transparency and reporting, as well as strong actions focused on the promotion of diversity and restrictions on excessive force. These goals are attainable and are needed now.

I am, however, concerned at the expansion of this legislation, targeting fundamental protections such as due process and qualified immunity. This bill in its present form is troubling in many ways and will make an already dangerous and difficult job even more dangerous for the men and women in law enforcement who serve our communities every day with honor and courage. Below are just a few areas, among many others, that concern me and warrant your rejection of these components of this bill:

(1) Due Process for all police officers: Fair and equitable process under the law demands the same rights of appeal afforded to all citizens and fellow public servants. Due process should not be viewed as an arduous impediment, but favored as a bedrock principle of fundamental fairness, procedure and accountability.

(2) Qualified Immunity: Qualified Immunity does not protect problem police officers. Qualified Immunity is extended to all public employees who act reasonably and in compliance with the rules and regulations of their respective departments, not just police officers. Qualified Immunity protects all public employees, as well as their municipalities, from frivolously lawsuits. This bill removes important liability protections essential for all public servants. Removing qualified immunity protections in this way will open officers, and other public employees to personal liabilities, causing significant financial burdens. This will impede future recruitment in all public fields: police officers, teachers, nurses, fire fighters, corrections officers, etc., as they are all directly affected by qualified immunity protections.

(3) POSA Committee: The composition of the POSA Committee must include more rank-and-file police officers and experts in the law enforcement field. If you're going to regulate law enforcement, up to and including termination, you must understand law enforcement. The same way doctors oversee doctors, lawyers oversee lawyers, teachers oversee

teachers, experts in law enforcement should oversee practitioners in law enforcement.

In closing, I remind you that those who protect and serve communities across Massachusetts are some of the most sophisticated and educated law enforcement officials in the nation. I again implore you to amend and correct S.2820 so as to treat the men and women in law enforcement with the respect and dignity they deserve.

Thank you,

David Bolvin / 324 Mendon Rd. North Attleboro, Ma 02760 /
dbolvin7@gmail.com

From: Michael Wilson <mwilson8936@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 9:09 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Subject: Opposition to Bill 2820

Dear Chair Michlewitz and Chair Cronin,

My name is Michael Wilson and I live at 14 Swan Pond Road in North Reading, MA 01864. I work at the Wilmington Police Department and am a Patrolman. As a constituent, I write to express my opposition to House Bill 2820/Senate Bill 2800. This legislation is detrimental to police and correction officers who work hard every day to keep the people of the Commonwealth safe. In 2019 the Criminal Justice System went through reform. That reform took several years to develop. I am dismayed in the hastiness that this bill was passed but I welcome the opportunity to tell you how this bill turns its back on the very men and women who serve the public.

??: Qualified immunity doesn't protect officers who break the law or violate someone's civil rights. Qualified Immunity protects officers who did not clearly violate statutory policy or constitutional rights. The erasure of this would open up the flood gates for frivolous lawsuits causing officers to acquire additional insurance and tying up the justice system causing the Commonwealth millions of dollars to process such frivolous lawsuits.

????????? ?????????? ?????????????????? ??????????: The fact that you want to take away an officer's use of pepper spray, impact weapons and K9 would leave no other option than to go from, yelling "Stop" to hands on tactics and/or using your firearm. We are all for de-escalation but if you take away these tools the amount of injuries and deaths would without a doubt rise.

??: While we are held to a higher standard than others in the community, to have an oversight committee made of people who have never worn the uniform, including an ex convicted felon is completely unnecessary and irresponsible. An oversight committee with the power to certify, decertify, and make requirements on the law enforcement profession which is made up of not a single law enforcement officer? There is not another profession in this state which has its oversight done by those who are not in the profession. This would be like

having an oversight committee for dentists made up entirely of cops. When this oversight board hears testimony where are the officer's rights under our collective bargaining agreement? Where are our rights to due process? What is the appeal process? These are things that have never been heard or explained to me. The need for responsible and qualified individuals on any committee should be first and foremost.

I am asking you to stop and think about the rush to reform police and corrections in such haste. Our officers are some of the best and well-trained officers anywhere. Although, we are not opposed to getting better it should be done with dignity and respect for the men and women who serve the Commonwealth. I ask that you think about the police officer you need to keep your streets safe from violence, and don't dismantle proven community policing practices. I would also ask you to think about the Correction Officer alone in a cell block, surrounded by up to one hundred inmates, not knowing when violence could erupt.

Another really concerning part about this bill is the broad and far reaching language which it has. The bill was so hastily put together that its language in regards to collective bargaining and qualified immunity applies to all public sector employees. All public labor unions in the Commonwealth lose their effectiveness. Firefighters, DPW workers, and even Teachers are now on the hook personally if someone does not like the job they have done.

The Massachusetts Senate passed this bill in order to say that they are doing something, and in doing so insulted every citizen of this Commonwealth. This bill was not passed by means of a fair and democratic process. Instead it was a pathetic attempt to pander to vocal special interest groups which do not understand the intricacies involved in law enforcement. Why did they not have an open dialogue with members from the community and law enforcement? There is nothing that we as police would like more than to be able to communicate with our community members in a constructive and respectful way in order to provide a public service that is fair, just and safe for everyone involved. Senate Bill s2800 is not the means to have those conversations.

I'm asking for your support and ensuring that whatever reform is passed that you do it responsibly. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Michael Wilson
Patrolman #209
Wilmington Police Department
From: James and Judith Kimble <jkimble1020@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 9:09 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)

Qualifying immunity means the public servant must qualify for exemption. They followed the rules and laws and qualify for this exemption. To take this away puts all of us at risk as police, fire, and emt will second guess themselves. Please do not leave this in the bill. Everyone's life depends on it. I am a teacher how will this affect us as well as a public

employee. We need the state support to help us do our jobs. Reform is important but please leave out qualify immunity.

Judith Kimble

From: Erin LeBlanc <erinosh2010@gmail.com>

Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 9:08 AM

To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)

Subject: Reform Bill s2800

I strongly disagree with the Police reform bill s2800. In my opinion, we can have a bill that includes productive reform without inducing negative effects to the Law Enforcement industry, Officers, their families and the community as a whole. Please vote "no" on this bill as it is written. Please rather, include discussion and input from the law enforcement community. Please remove adjustments to Qualified Immunity. Please include representation from all pertinent parties on any committee who would be charged for the review/over site of police involved cases.

We need to work together on enrichment. As this bill stands, it will destroy the law enforcement community. Like it or not, law and order is necessary in our free society. None of which will be accomplished with a mass exodus of Police officers retiring early and few prospects signing on to the positions in the future.

Please vote down Bill s2800. Let's come back to the table with enriching reform that is productive for everyone!

We can do better,

Erin LeBlanc

Independent Voter

erinosh2010@gmail.com

Sent from my iPhoneFrom: Piney Kesting <pineykesting@gmail.com>

Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 9:08 AM

To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)

Subject: re: moving juvenile offenders

To whom it may concern I am

Writing in support of moving juvenile

Offenders out of the adult prison system.

Sincerely,

Piney Kesting

Sent from my iPhone

From: Janson, Paul <paul.janson@sturbridgepd.com>

Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 8:58 AM

To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)

Subject: Reform on police standards

Whom this may concern,

I want to start out by saying that no one disagrees with police corruption more than good police officers. The public questions police every time one bad apple is spotlighted on the news. The news hardly ever spotlights the great things police do every day. The men and women I work with are good people who only want what is fair and just. Actions taken by us are only to keep ALL people safe no matter their race, gender or financial circumstances. I have participated and witnessed officers going above the call of duty to help those in need who are either victims or suspects of a crime.

Bill No. 2800 would not only undermine what it stands for but will cause more crime to spread. Singling out one or two races is not fair. Police officers such as myself will no longer be as proactive in helping people due to fear of being personally liable. Criminals will look at this bill as a way to exploit our system and our citizens will suffer. I urge you to look at other ways to help those who are discriminated against such as community members partnering with police. I urge you to allow for studies of the negative effects of this proposed bill before innocent lives are destroyed.

--

Respectfully,

Paul Janson

Patrolman, #351
Sturbridge Police Department
346 Main Street Sturbridge, Massachusetts 01566

(508) 347-2525 ext. 371
(508) 347-7904 fax
From: Donald Young <donald4young@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 9:08 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Subject: Bill S.2820

Hello, I am writing in support of Bill S.2820 recently passed by the MA state senate.

I emphatically support the requirements for training in de-escalation alternatives to the use of force for police encounters with individuals and large groups, as listed in Section 4 of the bill, as well as the accountability measures in Sections 6.

However the most important component of this bill is the limitations on qualified immunity in Section 10. Well-meaning committees and training become meaningless if the public has no effective, timely remedy for police misconduct. Qualified immunity serves to perpetuate harmful misconduct and endangers our citizens.

Police are entitled to job security and good working conditions. But they MUST be held accountable when they break the law and do violence to our neighbors.

Thank you,
Donald Young
Charlemont

From: Barrie Desrochers <bjdesrochers@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 9:08 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Subject: S2820 opposition

As your constituent, I write to you today to express my strong opposition to many parts of the recently passed S.2820. I hope that you will join me in prioritizing support for the establishment of a standards and accreditation committee, which includes increased transparency and reporting, as well as strong actions focused on the promotion of diversity and restrictions on excessive force. These goals are attainable and are needed now.

I am, however, concerned at the expansion of this legislation, targeting fundamental protections such as due process and qualified immunity. This bill in its present form is troubling in many ways and will make an already dangerous and difficult job even more dangerous for the men and women in law enforcement who serve our communities every day with honor and courage. Below are just a few areas, among many others, that concern me and warrant your rejection of these components of this bill:

(1)?Due Process for all police officers: Fair and equitable process under the law demands the same rights of appeal afforded to all citizens and fellow public servants. Due process should not be viewed as an arduous impediment, but favored as a bedrock principle of fundamental fairness, procedure and accountability.

(2)?Qualified Immunity: Qualified Immunity does not protect problem police officers. Qualified Immunity is extended to all public employees who act reasonably and in compliance with the rules and regulations of their respective departments, not just police officers. Qualified Immunity protects all public employees, as well as their municipalities, from frivolously lawsuits. This bill removes important liability protections essential for all public servants. Removing qualified immunity protections in this way will open officers, and other public employees to personal liabilities, causing significant financial burdens. This will impede future recruitment in all public fields: police officers, teachers, nurses, fire fighters, corrections officers, etc., as they are all directly affected by qualified immunity protections.

(3)?POSA Committee: The composition of the POSA Committee must include more rank-and-file police officers and experts in the law enforcement field. If you're going to regulate law enforcement, up to and including termination, you must understand law enforcement. The same way doctors

oversee doctors, lawyers oversee lawyers, teachers oversee teachers, experts in law enforcement should oversee practitioners in law enforcement.

In closing, I remind you that those who protect and serve communities across Massachusetts are some of the most sophisticated and educated law enforcement officials in the nation. I again implore you to amend and correct S.2820 so as to treat the men and women in law enforcement with the respect and dignity they deserve.

Barrie Desrochers

435 Pleasant St.

Bridgewater MA 02324

From: nicole desrochers <nmd6584@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 9:07 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Subject: Testimony

As your constituent, I write to you today to express my strong opposition to many parts of the recently passed S.2820. I hope that you will join me in prioritizing support for the establishment of a standards and accreditation committee, which includes increased transparency and reporting, as well as strong actions focused on the promotion of diversity and restrictions on excessive force. These goals are attainable and are needed now.

I am, however, concerned at the expansion of this legislation, targeting fundamental protections such as due process and qualified immunity. This bill in its present form is troubling in many ways and will make an already dangerous and difficult job even more dangerous for the men and women in law enforcement who serve our communities every day with honor and courage. Below are just a few areas, among many others, that concern me and warrant your rejection of these components of this bill:

(1) Due Process for all police officers: Fair and equitable process under the law demands the same rights of appeal afforded to all citizens and fellow public servants. Due process should not be viewed as an arduous impediment, but favored as a bedrock principle of fundamental fairness, procedure and accountability.

(2) Qualified Immunity: Qualified Immunity does not protect problem police officers. Qualified Immunity is extended to all public employees who act reasonably and in compliance with the rules and regulations of their respective departments, not just police officers. Qualified Immunity protects all public employees, as well as their municipalities, from frivolously lawsuits. This bill removes important liability protections essential for all public servants. Removing qualified immunity protections in this way will open officers, and other public

employees to personal liabilities, causing significant financial burdens. This will impede future recruitment in all public fields: police officers, teachers, nurses, fire fighters, corrections officers, etc., as they are all directly affected by qualified immunity protections.

(3) POSA Committee: The composition of the POSA Committee must include more rank-and-file police officers and experts in the law enforcement field. If you're going to regulate law enforcement, up to and including termination, you must understand law enforcement. The same way doctors oversee doctors, lawyers oversee lawyers, teachers oversee teachers, experts in law enforcement should oversee practitioners in law enforcement.

In closing, I remind you that those who protect and serve communities across Massachusetts are some of the most sophisticated and educated law enforcement officials in the nation. I again implore you to amend and correct S.2820 so as to treat the men and women in law enforcement with the respect and dignity they deserve.

Thank you,

Nicole Bolvin / 324 Mendon Rd. North Attleboro, Ma 02760 /
nmd6584@gmail.com

From: Jessica <jcapotosto920@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 9:07 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)

As your constituent, I write to you today to express my strong opposition to many parts of the recently passed S.2820. I hope that you will join me in prioritizing support for the establishment of a standards and accreditation committee, which includes increased transparency and reporting, as well as strong actions focused on the promotion of diversity and restrictions on excessive force. These goals are attainable and are needed now.

I am, however, concerned at the expansion of this legislation, targeting fundamental protections such as due process and qualified immunity. This bill in its present form is troubling in many ways and will make an already dangerous and difficult job even more dangerous for the men and women in law enforcement who serve our communities every day with honor and courage. Below are just a few areas, among many others, that concern me and warrant your rejection of these components of this bill:

(1) Due Process for all police officers: Fair and equitable process under the law demands the same rights of appeal afforded to all citizens and fellow public servants. Due process should not be viewed as an arduous impediment, but favored as a bedrock principle of fundamental fairness, procedure and accountability.

(2) Qualified Immunity: Qualified Immunity does not protect problem police officers. Qualified Immunity is extended to all public employees who act reasonably and in compliance with the rules and regulations of their respective departments, not just police officers. Qualified Immunity protects all public employees, as well as their municipalities, from frivolously lawsuits. This bill removes important liability protections essential for all public servants. Removing qualified

immunity protections in this way will open officers, and other public employees to personal liabilities, causing significant financial burdens. This will impede future recruitment in all public fields: police officers, teachers, nurses, fire fighters, corrections officers, etc., as they are all directly affected by qualified immunity protections.

(3) POSA Committee: The composition of the POSA Committee must include more rank-and-file police officers and experts in the law enforcement field. If you're going to regulate law enforcement, up to and including termination, you must understand law enforcement. The same way doctors oversee doctors, lawyers oversee lawyers, teachers oversee teachers, experts in law enforcement should oversee practitioners in law enforcement.

In closing, I remind you that those who protect and serve communities across Massachusetts are some of the most sophisticated and educated law enforcement officials in the nation. I again implore you to amend and correct S.2820 so as to treat the men and women in law enforcement with the respect and dignity they deserve.

Thank you,

Jessica Crowley
18 landmark drive
Methuen, MA 01844
Jcapotosto920@gmail.com

Sent from my iPhoneFrom: Nick Congelosi <ncongelosi@hubspot.com>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 9:06 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Subject: Supporting Testimony

Please accept this testimony for S.2820 in SUPPORT of an expansion to the 2018 youth expungement law. This letter is co-signed by 90 youth organizations, unions, business groups, and gun violence prevention advocates across Massachusetts.

Thank you for considering this issue within the scope of a police standards and accountability bill. It will also help so many who are struggling with unemployment during the COVID-19 crisis to find renewed hope and new opportunities.

--

Nick Congelosi

Manager, Management & Leadership Development
HubSpot
ncongelosi@hubspot.com
508.284.0367

From: Lenny <lmarkowitz@yahoo.com>

Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 9:07 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Subject: Police reform legislation

Hello, my name is Leonard Markowitz with the Greater Boston Interfaith Organization (GBIO). I live at 45 Nikisch Ave, Roslindale . I am writing to urge you and the House to pass police reform that includes:

- Implement Peace Officer Standards & Training with certification
- Civil service access reform
- Commission on structural racism
- Clear statutory limits on police use of force
- Qualified immunity reform

Thank you very much.

Leonard Markowitz

Lmarkowitz@yahoo.com

617-325-6322

45 Nikisch Ave, Roslindale Ma. 02131

Sincerely

Leonard Markowitz
From: Sophia Rossicone <srossico@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 9:06 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Subject: S 2820

Dear Rep. Aaron Michlewitz and Rep. Claire Cronin,
My name is Sophia Rossicone and I live at 17 Magnolia Terrace. As your constituent, I write to you today to express my staunch opposition to S.2820, a piece of hastily-thrown-together legislation that will hamper law enforcement efforts across the Commonwealth. It robs police officers of the same Constitutional Rights extended to citizens across the nation. It is misguided and wrong.
Like most of my neighbors, I am dismayed at the scarcity of respect and protections extended to police officers in your proposed reforms. While there is always room for improvement in policing, the proposed legislation has far too many flaws. Of the many concerns, three, in particular, stand out and demand immediate attention, modification and/or correction. Those issues are:

(1) Due Process for all police officers: Fair and equitable process under the law. The appeal processes afforded to police officers have been in place for generations. They deserve to maintain the right to appeal given to all of our public servants.

(2) Qualified Immunity: Qualified Immunity does not protect problem police officers. Qualified Immunity is extended to all public employees who act reasonably and in compliance with the rules and regulations of their respective departments, not just police officers. Qualified Immunity protects all public employees, as well as their municipalities, from frivolously unrealistic lawsuits.

(3) POSA Committee: The composition of the POSA Committee must include rank-and-file police officers. If you're going to regulate law enforcement, up to and including termination, you must understand law enforcement. The same way doctors oversee doctors, lawyers oversee lawyers, teachers oversee teachers, law enforcement should oversee law enforcement.

In closing, I remind you that those who protect and serve communities across Massachusetts are some of the most sophisticated and educated law enforcement officials in the nation. Let me remind you that in 2015 President Obama recognized the Boston Police Department as one of the best in the nation at community policing. I again implore you to amend and correct S.2820 so as to treat the men and women in law enforcement with the respect and dignity they deserve.

Sincerely,

Sophia Rossicone

From: Comcast <candklapointe@comcast.net>

Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 9:06 AM

To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)

Subject: S.2820

As your constituent, I write to you today to express my strong opposition to many parts of the recently passed S.2820. I hope that you will join me in prioritizing support for the establishment of a standards and accreditation committee, which includes increased transparency and reporting, as well as strong actions focused on the promotion of diversity and restrictions on excessive force. These goals are attainable and are needed now.

I am, however, concerned at the expansion of this legislation, targeting fundamental protections such as due process and qualified immunity. This bill in its present form is troubling in many ways and will make an already dangerous and difficult job even more dangerous for the men and women in law enforcement who serve our communities every day with honor and courage. Below are just a few areas, among many others, that concern me and warrant your rejection of these components of this bill:

(1)?Due Process for all police officers: Fair and equitable process under the law demands the same rights of appeal afforded to all citizens and fellow public servants. Due process should not be viewed as an arduous impediment, but favored as a bedrock principle of fundamental fairness, procedure and accountability.

(2)?Qualified Immunity: Qualified Immunity does not protect problem police officers. Qualified Immunity is extended to all public employees who act reasonably and in compliance with the rules and regulations of their respective departments, not just police officers. Qualified Immunity protects all public employees, as well as their municipalities, from frivolously lawsuits. This bill removes important liability protections essential for all public servants. Removing qualified immunity protections in this way will open officers, and other public employees to personal liabilities, causing significant financial burdens. This will impede future recruitment in all public fields: police officers, teachers, nurses, fire fighters, corrections officers, etc., as they are all directly affected by qualified immunity protections.

(3)?POSA Committee: The composition of the POSA Committee must include more rank-and-file police officers and experts in the law enforcement field. If you're going to regulate law enforcement, up to and including termination, you must understand law enforcement. The same way doctors oversee doctors, lawyers oversee lawyers, teachers oversee teachers, experts in law enforcement should oversee practitioners in law enforcement.

In closing, I remind you that those who protect and serve communities across Massachusetts are some of the most sophisticated and educated law enforcement officials in the nation. I again implore you to amend and correct S.2820 so as to treat the men and women in law enforcement with the respect and dignity they deserve.

Thank you,

Christopher M. Lapointe

147 West Gill Rd, Gill MA

Candklapointe@comcast.net

From: JAMES OLIVEIRA <jolive3281@verizon.net>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 9:06 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Subject: Bill 2800

Being a second generation police officer my family has seen many changes in policing over the years. Although we know that it will continue to change it is unheard of that the voices of these officers were not heard by the Senate. This bill directly affects our job our family and the career we chose to pursue. The house needs to hold public hearings and receive input from the people that this bill directly affects failure to do so would be a total injustice to the men and women of law-enforcement the fire department teachers any public servant. If these public hearings are not held then our only choice is to voice our opinion at the ballot box and this will not be forgotten. Thank you for your time and consideration in this matter back the blue red and the teachers.

Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone
<https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__overview.mail.yahoo.com_-3F.src-3DiOS&d=DwMCAQ&c=1DF7oMaPKXpkYvev9V-fVahWL0QWnGCCAfCDz1Bns_w&r=uoevGInjCfTlguYncQubxpi5R6db_gq1YmKr0SCk2EnIiuk13zIs16rchf_GkGDD&m=J0RH0jN3ylFf2T54I0PzzjmR712y-gQ5RtSOetli7OU&s=gPvRvYJOFJzAVtrl-rDDOs3NHK708Lalwj4J1ABSLic&e=>>

From: Shaw, Michael <ShawM@websterpolice.com>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 9:06 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Subject: Written Testimony

Please not that I support the Massachusetts Chiefs of Police Position.

Chief Michael Shaw

Webster Police Department

Unit Control Chief/CEMLEC SWAT

357 Main Street

Webster, MA 01570

508-943-1212 ext 1216

Fax 508-943-7979

Confidentiality Note

This email is covered by the Electronic Communications Privacy Act, 18 U. S. C. §§ 2510-2521 and is legally privileged. This electronic message transmission, which includes any files transmitted with it, may contain confidential or privileged information and is only intended for the individual or entity named above. If you are not the intended recipient of this email, please be aware that you have received this email in error and any disclosure, copying, distribution or use of the contents of this information is strictly prohibited. If you have received this email in error, please immediately purge it and all attachments and notify me immediately by electronic mail.

From: Catherine Lemay <catherine.lemay@icloud.com>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 8:41 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU); Blais, Natalie - Rep. (HOU)
Subject: S. 2820

Dear Representative Blais and Representative Michlewitz,

I am a resident of Ashfield. I have been following Bill S. 2800 closely and feel the following issues must be addressed.

Our Senate has failed the citizens of this state by filing this bill and trying to push it through legislation without sufficient discussion or analysis. This bill proposes big changes and it is wrong to rush these changes through in the name of making Massachusetts a pioneer in racial equality. That is not fair to anyone in this state and is not how a proper democracy functions. Being a pioneer in bad legislation may be more damaging than no new legislation at all.

Suggesting to change Qualified Immunity for police officers warrants more time and consideration than it is currently being given. Massachusetts has not had any of the incidents that have sparked outrage against the police in the news. We have good police officers who do hard work everyday and they deserve better than to become the example and be made so over the course of two weeks. The police officers and citizens of this state deserve more than a hasty bill pushed through before the end of the legislative session. Please consider tabling the issue of Qualified Immunity until further research can be conducted.

Any decisions that the Police Officer Standards and Accreditation Committee (POSAC) makes should be made by a 2/3 majority.

I continue to object to Section 223 (d) as the document does not make clear if this "searchable database" will include the officer's name (as opposed to 223 (e) which states it will "identify each officer by a confidential and anonymous number"). As you should be aware, in the small

towns in which we live, everyone already knows where the police officers and Troopers live. If you are to include names, it will not matter whether you include an address or not, for the officer's address will be known. In the current, tumultuous climate (June 26, 2020 "Kill A Cop Day"), this information would certainly be used for harassment purposes. To leave officers and their families vulnerable to attacks and retaliation is reckless.

I object to Section 24, 10A. In order to have more competent police officers who make the right decisions in difficult situations, one would want to attract the most intellectual candidates. Reading the laws set forth in this bill, it appears that the cadets would have to meet the same academic requirements as an academy provides, while circumventing any stress conditioning. If this is true, you will end up with officers less likely to make the right decisions under stress. If the goal of this bill is to create a police force that responds to pressure rationally, using de-escalation techniques, you will not get this by lessening training or bypassing stress conditioning! By matriculating less psychologically resilient candidates, you will have ended up undermining your own bill! If you want qualified and intelligent police, what you should be requiring is a college degree and a difficult academy.

Chapter 147A, Section 2 (e). In recent memory, there have been numerous instances where a vehicle was used as the sole weapon of attack on people, both nationally and globally. "Use of the vehicle itself" should constitute imminent harm. That line should be stricken from the bill.

Chapter 147A, Section 2 (f). I restate my previous suggestion that when the POSAC makes their decision "as to whether the de-escalation efforts taken in advance of the event and at the time of the event were adequate and whether the use of or order to use tear gas or other chemical weapons, rubber pellets or dog was justified.", they sustain or deny based on a 2/3 majority. Furthermore, perhaps it would be more logical to have a representative from the POSAC on scene at these incidents so they can determine whether the use of tear gas, etc., is justified, therefore avoiding any violation of rights. Without police body camera footage, a true understanding of the events would be difficult.

SECTION 64 (e). Body cameras should be made available to police officers as soon as possible. With the implementation of any of the laws in Bill S. 2820, body cameras should be made available to those requesting them for our citizens' and officers' personal safety and as assurance of lawfulness and truth. 2022 is a long time to wait. Why there is a task force assigned to study body cameras, but not to study changing qualified immunity does not make sense.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Catherine Lemay
605 Old Stage Road
Ashfield, MA 01330

From: Linda Storch <lindajstorch@aol.com>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 9:06 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Subject: Bill S2820

I am writing in my opposition to Bill S2820. It will strip the rights of first responders, nurses and teachers. It will become impossible for them to do their jobs. This puts their lives and lives of others in danger. First responders, nurses and teachers will quit, retire and recruiting of first responders will be very difficult. I don't blame them why would anyone want to risk their lives when they are treated with such disrespect. Furthermore, judges and elected officials should also not benefit from absolute immunity. They need to be held responsible for their actions and decisions which are paving the way to a lawless society. No more paid security details by the taxpayers.

Linda Storch
Quincy

Sent from my iPhone
From: Ryan McCarthy <rmccarthy@mtwyouth.org>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 9:07 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Subject: Please Support Raise the Age/ Youth Expungement

To the Honorable Chairman Aaron Michlewitz, Chair Claire Cronin, Vice Chair Denise Garlick, Vice Chair Michael Day, and committee members:

Please accept this testimony for S.2820 in SUPPORT of an expansion to the 2018 youth expungement law. This letter is co-signed by 90 youth organizations, unions, business groups, and gun violence prevention advocates across Massachusetts.

I work for More Than Words with young people working for a second chance. Too many of them are hindered in their job search process by previous charges they have as minors. Please support the expansion of the youth expungement law.

Thank you for considering this issue within the scope of a police standards and accountability bill. It will also help so many who are struggling with unemployment during the COVID-19 crisis to find renewed hope and new opportunities.

Please reach out to us with any questions.

Sincerely,
Ryan McCarthy

--

Ryan McCarthy

More Than Words

Associate Director of Career Services

242 E Berkeley St.

Boston, MA 02118

Phone- 617-674-5554

Fax - 781-788-0037

More Than Words empowers system-involved youth to take charge of their lives by taking charge of a business.

Description: Description: Facebook

<https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__www.facebook.com_mtwyouth_-3Ffref-3Dts&d=DwMFaQ&c=1DF7oMaPKXpkYvev9V-fVahWL0QWnGCCAfCDz1Bns_w&r=uoevGInjCfTlguYncQubxpi5R6db_gq1YmKr0SCk2EnIiuk13zIs16rchf_GkGDD&m=7WapFUXMqcb1Kb5RzHW5eWG81L4JrkRVh-UTHpSvzXk&s=QCKurIWFmgdnONoAo8JFTNd4wq5avQne_oo-Cd3hHnk&e=> Description: Description: Twitter <https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__twitter.com_mtwyouth&d=DwMFaQ&c=1DF7oMaPKXpkYvev9V-fVahWL0QWnGCCAfCDz1Bns_w&r=uoevGInjCfTlguYncQubxpi5R6db_gq1YmKr0SCk2EnIiuk13zIs16rchf_GkGDD&m=7WapFUXMqcb1Kb5RzHW5eWG81L4JrkRVh-UTHpSvzXk&s=0FAjT6af9asTQ8f2M894q3Ay5c1nHLq5Y46r49k5JCA&e=> Description: Description: Instagram <https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__www.instagram.com_mtwbooks_-3Fhl-3Den&d=DwMFaQ&c=1DF7oMaPKXpkYvev9V-fVahWL0QWnGCCAfCDz1Bns_w&r=uoevGInjCfTlguYncQubxpi5R6db_gq1YmKr0SCk2EnIiuk13zIs16rchf_GkGDD&m=7WapFUXMqcb1Kb5RzHW5eWG81L4JrkRVh-UTHpSvzXk&s=9V7WLV-B8WS38rx-PubMsk4zVxz8LJ5HqwOBmB324sQ&e=>

From: Shaun Collins <sfcollins11@gmail.com>

Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 9:05 AM

To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)

Subject: Reform Shift and Build Act Support

Hello,

I am a resident of Roxbury Crossing, MA and I unequivocally support the Reform, Shift + Build Act (S.2800).

Massachusetts has always been on the forefront of states passing legislation to support the people that live here and we've never shied

away from decisions that seemed radical at the time. I have always been proud of - and bragged about - MA being the first state to legalize gay marriage, and I hope to see us continue to make the right choices ahead of the curve and set the standard for the rest of the country to follow. It's time to eliminate qualified immunity, ban chokeholds, reallocate state funds to communities disproportionately impacted by the criminal justice system, and allow the Mass AG to file lawsuits against discriminatory police departments. I hope to see this legislation pass so I can continue to be a proud resident.

Thank you,

Shaun

From: Nicholas Latino <nicholas.latino@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 9:04 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Subject: police reform bill

Good morning,

I'm going to make this short.

As a good hard working police officer I am so upset and taken back by this process. The men and women police officers of this state did nothing to deserve this. You are villifying a whole profession based on what one person did half a country away.

Now our lives will be in jeopardy because of what the senate and you are about to pass. What don't you understand about qualified immunity ? It does not protect bad cops. They can still get sued. What it does is protect good cops acting in good faith doing the right thing. It protects them from frivolous lawsuits that tie up their whole livelihood.

I strongly ask you to reconsider this bill. Please don't pass it.

Work needs to be done, absolutely. Why rush? Take your time and get it done properly. So what if it goes into next legislative session ? It will pass then. This is rushed. Beyond rushed. Get a bill to the governors desk by the 20th ? 3 days of debate ? This is unheard of.

Please, for the sake of my family, my children, the community I serve, stop this bill in its place, take your time and re do it.

This is not right

Respectively,

A concerned police officer.

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android

<[This bill is one of the worst written bills I have ever seen. I am so incredible disappointed in the state senate for passing such a dangerous bill. It truly puts the lives of police officers and the public in danger. What has this world come to. I urge you to do the right thing and defeat this bill.](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__go.onelink.me_107872968-3Fpid-3DInProduct-26c-3DGlobal-5FInternal-5FYGrowth-5FAndroidEmailSig-5F-5FAndroidUsers-26af-5Fwl-3Dym-26af-5Fsub1-3DInternal-26af-5Fsub2-3DGlobal-5FYGrowth-26af-5Fsub3-3DEmailSignature&d=DwMFaQ&c=lDF7oMaPKXpkYvev9V-fVahWL0QWnGCCAfCDz1Bns_w&r=uoevGInjCfTlguYncQubxpi5R6db_gq1YmKr0SCk2EnIiuk13zIs16rchf_GkGDD&m=pK07rX_FRpXQojYGz2RvG0GgWPTFmCOrqV97sn_zfjw&s=lIMtmLQ0StlMGhi5lZa7c_kiqlx9yu9vds_vhOrnvM8&e=>>
From: Michael Delaney <michaell_delaney@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 9:04 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Subject: Bill</p></div><div data-bbox=)

Michael Delaney

Sent from my iPhone
From: Mariann Dube <mariann.dube71@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 9:04 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Subject: S 2820

As your constituent, I write to you today to express my strong opposition to many parts of the recently passed S.2820. I hope that you will join me in prioritizing support for the establishment of a standards and accreditation committee, which includes increased transparency and reporting, as well as strong actions focused on the promotion of diversity and restrictions on excessive force. These goals are attainable and are needed now.

I am, however, concerned at the expansion of this legislation, targeting fundamental protections such as due process and qualified immunity. This bill in its present form is troubling in many ways and will make an already dangerous and difficult job even more dangerous for the men and women in law enforcement who serve our communities every day with honor and courage. Below are just a few areas, among many others, that concern me and warrant your rejection of these components of this bill:

(1)?Due Process for all police officers: Fair and equitable process under the law demands the same rights of appeal afforded to all citizens and fellow public servants. Due process should not be viewed as an arduous impediment, but favored as a bedrock principle of fundamental fairness, procedure and accountability.

(2)?Qualified Immunity: Qualified Immunity does not protect problem police officers. Qualified Immunity is extended to all public employees who act reasonably and in compliance with the rules and regulations of their respective departments, not just police officers. Qualified

Immunity protects all public employees, as well as their municipalities, from frivolously lawsuits. This bill removes important liability protections essential for all public servants. Removing qualified immunity protections in this way will open officers, and other public employees to personal liabilities, causing significant financial burdens. This will impede future recruitment in all public fields: police officers, teachers, nurses, fire fighters, corrections officers, etc., as they are all directly affected by qualified immunity protections.

(3)?POSA Committee: The composition of the POSA Committee must include more rank-and-file police officers and experts in the law enforcement field. If you're going to regulate law enforcement, up to and including termination, you must understand law enforcement. The same way doctors oversee doctors, lawyers oversee lawyers, teachers oversee teachers, experts in law enforcement should oversee practitioners in law enforcement.

In closing, I remind you that those who protect and serve communities across Massachusetts are some of the most sophisticated and educated law enforcement officials in the nation. I again implore you to amend and correct S.2820 so as to treat the men and women in law enforcement with the respect and dignity they deserve.

Thank you,

Mariann Dube

3 South St

Maynard, MA 01754

From: Katharine Esty <katharine.esty@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 9:04 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Subject: bill

Subject line: Testimony re S.2820

Dear Rep. Cronin and Rep. Michlewitz,

I am writing to express support for S.2820, the Senate's police reform bill. I urge the House to enact a similar bill as soon as possible, and get it through a conference committee and signed by Governor Baker by the end of July.

I particularly support the Senate bill's approach to the creation of a state-wide certification board and state-wide training standards, limits on use of force, the duty to intervene if an officer witnesses misconduct by another officer, banning racial profiling and mandating the collection of racial data for police stops, civilian approval required for the purchase of military equipment, the prohibition of nondisclosure

agreements in police misconduct cases, and allowing the Governor to select a colonel from outside the state police force, as well as all of the provisions requested by the Black and Latino Legislative Caucus.

I support allowing local Superintendents of Schools, not a state mandate, to decide whether police officers (school resource officers) are helpful in their own schools. Municipalities should be able to make this decision for themselves.

I also support the Senate bill's small modifications to qualified immunity for police officers. Under this bill, police officers would continue to have qualified immunity if they act in a reasonable way, and they would continue to be financially indemnified by the tax-payers in their municipalities. Police officers should not, however, be immune to prosecution if they engage in egregious misconduct, even if case law has not previously established that this particular form of misconduct is egregious

Most importantly, I hope a good police reform bill will be enacted by the end of July. Thank you for giving attention to this important priority, along with all the other important issues the House is addressing.

katharine esty, PhD

Newbury Court

Concord MA

9783695635From: chachi2257 <chachi2257@gmail.com>

Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 9:04 AM

To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)

Subject: Police reform bill

Good morning

I am writing you today asking you to please not vote for this bill.

This will only put our officers lives and lives of our citizens in more danger, as the bill is written it will also allow an officer to be sued personally for anything and everything.

There are over 800,000 officers in this country who proudly serve everyday to keep us safe, yet they are being judged on the actions of a few.

Not long ago they were being hailed as heroes for being on the front lines and now because of the radicals who have waged war on them, they are left to fend for themselves.

These men and women have taken on this job in spite of the dangers they face everyday with every call, still they do it to make a difference and to be the line between harm and every citizen.

For all they have done for us we can not now turn our backs on them and put them in more danger from the very people who should be backing them when they need it.

Those who think they know what these officers face daily should go on a ride along some Friday or Saturday night, maybe they will understand.

Families watch their loved ones leaving for their shift and pray they come home safe and now they have to worry about their future and the future of every good citizen.

I am respectfully asking you to stand up and do the right thing.

Respectfully
Diane Bourisk

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

From: josh Winters <joshuadwinters@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 9:03 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Subject: Please Amend S.2820

As your constituent, I write to you today to express my strong opposition to many parts of the recently passed S.2820. I hope that you will join me in prioritizing support for the establishment of a standards and accreditation committee, which includes increased transparency and reporting, as well as strong actions focused on the promotion of diversity and restrictions on excessive force. These goals are attainable and are needed now.

I am, however, concerned at the expansion of this legislation, targeting fundamental protections such as due process and qualified immunity. This bill in its present form is troubling in many ways and will make an already dangerous and difficult job even more dangerous for the men and women in law enforcement who serve our communities every day with honor and courage. Below are just a few areas, among many others, that concern me and warrant your rejection of these components of this bill:

(1) Due Process for all police officers: Fair and equitable process under the law demands the same rights of appeal afforded to all citizens and fellow public servants. Due process should not be viewed as an arduous impediment, but favored as a bedrock principle of fundamental fairness, procedure and accountability.

(2) Qualified Immunity: Qualified Immunity does not protect problem police officers. Qualified Immunity is extended to all public employees who act reasonably and in compliance with the rules and regulations of their respective departments, not just police officers. Qualified Immunity protects all public employees from frivolous lawsuits. This bill removes important liability protections essential for all public servants. Removing qualified immunity protections in this way will open officers, and other public employees to personal liabilities, causing significant financial burdens. This will impede future recruitment in all public fields: police officers, teachers, nurses, fire fighters, corrections officers, etc., as they are all directly affected by qualified immunity protections.

(3) POSA Committee: The composition of the POSA Committee must include more rank-and-file police officers and experts in the law enforcement field. If you're going to regulate law enforcement, up to and including termination, you must understand law enforcement. The same way doctors oversee doctors, lawyers oversee lawyers, teachers oversee teachers, experts in the law enforcement field should oversee practitioners in law enforcement.

In closing, I remind you that those who protect and serve communities across Massachusetts are some of the most sophisticated and educated law enforcement officials in the nation. I again implore you to amend and correct S.2820 so as to treat the men and women in law enforcement with the respect and dignity they deserve.

Thank you,

Joshua Winters

8 Karen Dr Sterling, MA 01564

Joshuadwinters@gmail.com

From: Heavey, Daniel G. <HeaveyD@worcesterma.gov>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 9:03 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Cc: Ferguson, Kimberly - Rep. (HOU)
Subject: Police Reform Bill S2820

House Committees,

Good Morning, My name is Daniel Heavey 508-826-7007. I work for the Worcester Police Department and have been a police officer for seven years.

I am writing to give my written testimony on the Police Reform Bill S2820. I first want to thank you for having a public hearing through written testimony. To me, policing is the greatest profession there is. The profession is extremely difficult and stressful but very rewarding and I couldn't imagine myself doing anything else, until now. What took place the last couple weeks in the senate along with the bill that was voted on has me stating to consider switching professions. For me to even write this is extremely difficult because I love what I do and see the positive impact the Worcester Police Department has on the City.

The Senate Bill that was passed is anti labor legislation, it removes our right to due process, collective bargaining and inserts a board that has no training, experience or background in law enforcement. We need the amendments that were filed in the senate bill to be adopted.

1. Qualified immunity
2. Due process/collective bargaining
3. Make up the POSAC board

Look what is already happening across the country. We are seeing the number of qualified applicants down, large number of veteran officers seeking early retirement that are needed as role models and mentors for young officers as well as smart well educated officers leaving the profession for other jobs. It concerns me what departments will look like in the future.

Like every profession we need to strive to always do better and we are welcome to improving our policing methods but this is not the ways to do it. So I please ask that you adopt the above listed amendments.

Respectfully submitted,
Daniel Heavey

Sent from my iPhone
From: Elvis Nguyen <elvis.nguyen001@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 9:03 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Subject: Police Reform Bill

Whomever it might concern,

My name is Elvis Nguyen and I'm a resident of Marshfield. I'm writing to you to express my concern over the current police reform bill that the house is trying to pass in a rushed and uneducated manner. This bill will affect the well-being and livelihood of law enforcement families across the Commonwealth, in addition it will effect our officers judgement and have them second guessing when they are put in difficult situations. Situations, that people outside of this profession will never understand unless they do police work. Comparing the law enforcement profession to doctors and lawyers in regards to liability is comparing apples to oranges and quite frankly ridiculous. Doctors and Lawyers spend years and thousands and thousands of hours on education and have time to analyze the situation they're in. In addition people go to lawyers and doctors voluntarily to seek help. Law enforcement on the other hand, we deal with peoples freedom and at an instant a detention takes that away. This is done every single day as part of investigations for a crimes throughout your Commonwealth. Police officers aren't in school for years. As a matter of fact it's 6 months and you're sent out on the streets to do the job which requires you to detain people essentially taking their freedom away. If your only knowledge of law enforcement is what you see on TV then I invite you do a ride along with me or you can ask any police department for that matter and for a one day experience on what we experience. If you're too busy to leave your office, then you can still turn on a police radio scanner and listen to the calls.

I'm sure we can agree that the acts in Minneapolis on May 25, 2020 were excessive and flat out wrong in every aspect of humanity. I also agree that police reform is necessary in order to address the issues of injustice in our criminal justice system. There is no denial that this system needs to be fixed. However, it is detrimental to have the input of our officers on any such reforms. Officers who live the reality and answer

the call to respond to issues in our communities that others do not see. Violence that the media does not report on, and violence that our legislators do not live in every day. Proposing and passing anything without a conversation and fully understanding the issue can and will have negative effects on public safety and cause more harm to the community than good.

I entered this profession with a strong desire to help people, and that desire is still there. I do not seek praise or gratitude, nor do I want it. What I do ask for is our leaders to understand the changes you make and the positions you will be putting us in with these changes. Taking away qualified immunity and changing it in anyway shape or form, takes away my peace of mind when I go to work. This is what allows me to sleep at night knowing that I don't have to worry about the well-being of my family. Please don't use the police as a scapegoat for political agendas. In my short 8 years in law enforcement, I have personally seen the morale in Officers and Troopers decline each and every day. Anybody who tells you that morale is "good" is lying. Never have I seen so many people in this profession seeking different career alternatives. Fear that they could potentially lose everything they have worked so hard for to better themselves, their families and their communities.

To every Legislator. I am a Massachusetts State Trooper, I am a husband, a father and a son. I am a minority, first generation Vietnamese American. I grew up in the City of Boston, the Old Colony housing projects to be precise. I went to Boston Public Schools. I am where I am today because of the life choices I made. I am in this profession because of one positive interaction with the police when I was younger. I worked hard to get to where I am today. I'm proud of my accomplishments. Don't strip away at the fabric that protects me and my family. I am open to a conversation at anytime. Please give me a call or email me.

In the words of the father of modern day policing "The police are the public and the public are the police; the police being only members of the public who are paid to give full time attention to duties which are incumbent on every citizen in the interests of community welfare and existence." Sir Robert Peel

Thank you for your consideration.

Elvis Nguyen

35 Ryder Lane, Marshfield MA 02050 <x-apple-data-detectors://5>

<tel:617-372-2338> 617-372- <tel:617-372-2338> 2338 <tel:617-372-2338>

Elvis Nguyen

617-372-2338

From: Benjamin Zahner <benjamin.zahner@gmail.com>

Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 9:03 AM

To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)

Subject: Bill S.2820

As your constituent, I write to you today to express my strong opposition to many parts of the recently passed S.2820. I hope that you will join me in prioritizing support for the establishment of a standards and accreditation committee, which includes increased transparency and reporting, as well as strong actions focused on the promotion of diversity and restrictions on excessive force. These goals are attainable and are needed now.

I am, however, concerned at the expansion of this legislation, targeting fundamental protections such as due process and qualified immunity. This bill in its present form is troubling in many ways and will make an already dangerous and difficult job even more dangerous for the men and women in law enforcement who serve our communities every day with honor and courage. Below are just a few areas, among many others, that concern me and warrant your rejection of these components of this bill:

(1)?Due Process for all police officers: Fair and equitable process under the law demands the same rights of appeal afforded to all citizens and fellow public servants. Due process should not be viewed as an arduous impediment, but favored as a bedrock principle of fundamental fairness, procedure and accountability.

(2)?Qualified Immunity: Qualified Immunity does not protect problem police officers. Qualified Immunity is extended to all public employees who act reasonably and in compliance with the rules and regulations of their respective departments, not just police officers. Qualified Immunity protects all public employees, as well as their municipalities, from frivolously lawsuits. This bill removes important liability protections essential for all public servants. Removing qualified immunity protections in this way will open officers, and other public employees to personal liabilities, causing significant financial burdens. This will impede future recruitment in all public fields: police officers, teachers, nurses, fire fighters, corrections officers, etc., as they are all directly affected by qualified immunity protections.

(3)?POSA Committee: The composition of the POSA Committee must include more rank-and-file police officers and experts in the law enforcement field. If you're going to regulate law enforcement, up to and including termination, you must understand law enforcement. The same way doctors

oversee doctors, lawyers oversee lawyers, teachers oversee teachers, experts in law enforcement should oversee practitioners in law enforcement.

In closing, I remind you that those who protect and serve communities across Massachusetts are some of the most sophisticated and educated law enforcement officials in the nation. I again implore you to amend and correct S.2820 so as to treat the men and women in law enforcement with the respect and dignity they deserve.

Thank you,

Benjamin John Zahner

3 Whitehorse Road Hingham, MA 02043

Benjamin.zahner@gmail.com

From: Alan Wishart <awishart@granbypd.org>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 9:03 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Subject: Senate 2820

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.

Please know that most of the Bill I support. However, there are certain issues that will have a specific negative impact on policing in my jurisdiction and Massachusetts in general. First, qualified immunity is a protection that is necessary for officers who are working in situations that require split second decisions. I refer you to Chief Kyes and the MCOPA comments in regard to that. I would expect any limitations to qualified immunity would have two possible effects. First, a likely massive exodus of good, dedicated and professional officers leaving for retirement or other professions where they are not in personal jeopardy for professional mistakes that are made. To be clear, the disgusting and criminal behavior, like that of the officers involved in the George Floyd murder, should never be protected in anyway. They should be held accountable for their despicable actions.

The other possible outcome will be, those officers that remain, will be very hesitant to act. That places both them and the public in danger.

Officers will look only to act in situations where they absolutely must. Effective and professional policing will be negatively impacted.

I am also very concerned about limiting the information sharing between school resource officers, school and police departments. That is possibly one of the most important aspects of the school resource officer position. Our jurisdiction has had an incredibly positive and long standing relationship between the school and the police department. The majority of information shared has nothing to do with criminal behavior. That free flow of information helps us make sure that the schools are aware of any concern related to safety, student health and other issues that occur outside of the regular hours of the school day that they would otherwise not know. The school shares information with us the same way, for the same purpose, and with the same goal to provide the best possible environment for our children both in and out of school. It literally follows the adage " it takes a village to raise a child". Limiting that exchange of information will have a significant negative impact on our Town's ability to provide optimal situations for our children.

The last concern is related to a deadly force exception to the ban on choke holds in situations where an officer is fighting for his life. If an officer's life or the life of a citizen is in serious jeopardy and deadly force is justified, any hold or other technique should be allowed as an exception in these very limited, specific and deadly circumstances.

Thank you for taking the time to hear my concerns.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or if I can be of any service.

Respectfully,

--

Alan Wishart
Chief of Police
Granby Police Department
Ph. (413) 467-9222
Fax. (413) 467-2621
awishart@granbypd.org
From: denise harter <denise.harter00@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 9:03 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Subject: Testimony for police reform bill

My name is Denise Harter, I'm a healthcare worker at Cape Cod Hospital, my phone number is 8572253681. My son's father is the recipient of 2 Purple Hearts and a Bronze Star.

I fully support this reform bill and only ask that instead of defunding the police money is moved from police salaries and into police education. I fully support that police officers be licensed and held accountable for their actions.

I have video of a police officer announcing they do not know what the law is (whether it is trespassing or not) while watching a man climb onto my balcony after I told him he did not have permission to be there, and then watching the man start trying to tear down my personal property, all because a member of my condo board works at the Weymouth police station and has been abusing their power. This happened after the board of health posted a letter that my balcony was not to be touched until an approved replacement for the fix I had put up was ready (it was not). It is upsetting when a police officer can announce they don't know if this is trespassing and stand by watching with a smirk while someone attempts to tear down your property.

I have had police tell me they can't do anything when a schizophrenic neighbor is threatening to stab my toddler son with a knife, unless she threatens to hurt herself. I have had police show up when I called them for the same schizophrenic woman knocking on my apartment door at 9pm at night accompanied by the same member of Weymouth police department Adrienne Colletti, calling out for a dead celebrity, Prince, that she is obsessed with. Then when the police show up they are rude and demand to search my home, for "a man" with no warrant or probable cause. Why? Because I had the nerve to run against a member of the police department for my condo board.

I work in healthcare, if I do not know something, it is not ok for me to just shrug and say that I don't know. If healthcare workers did that people would die. I speak to my peers to find out the answer or I let the doctor reading the case know the concern. I have to be registered and can be sued in my profession. The same accountability must be extended to local law enforcement. I have personally seen the abuse of power that goes on, and if you would like to contact me I can give you more information. It is not ok for multiple police officers to tell me they don't know if a man climbing on my second floor balcony is trespassing and then refuse to find out or do their job. Even going so far as encouraging the man that they "don't care what you do."

I have asked for information about certain police officers at my local police department that I would like to file complaints about and still have not received an answer.

This needs to change and a reform bill is the only way to do it. Police officers need to know it's not ok to just stand there and announce they aren't sure if something is illegal while it continues to happen. Training and education with a strong system for appropriate reprimanding and accountability will help strengthen the police force and strengthen the bond between the community and the police.

Sincerely,
Denise Harter

Sent from my iPhoneFrom: Berul1977@aol.com
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 9:02 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Subject: Bill S2820

Please do not pass this bill and put handcuffs on our police. My sons life is on the line if you do. At least listen to the people involved and be informed before making a decision that can harm so many of our officers.

Sent from my iPhone
Beth Carman
From: James Ayotte <chiefayotte@townofhardwick.com>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 9:02 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Subject: Mass Chiefs Backing

Good Morning,

I Chief James Ayotte of the Hardwick and New Braintree Police Department endorse the Mass Chiefs opinion on the current matter. If the protection for officers enabling them to safely do their job is removed, it will greatly impact the safety of all.

Thank You,

Chief James Ayotte

Sent from my iPhone

Chief James Ayotte
Hardwick Police Dept.
413-477-6708
508-867-1170
Fax 413-477-6723From: Katie Radebaugh <katierades@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 9:01 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Subject: S.2800

Good Morning Sir and Ma'am

I am opposed to Bill S.2800 for many reasons. One in particular is removing Qualified Immunity for Law Enforcement. Day in and day out the men and women in Law Enforcement in MA put on their uniform and do whatever is asked of them. They go into the worst situations that you could only have nightmares about. They rally up before riots and protests, not knowing if they themselves will be going home in one piece. The Massachusetts Law Enforcement are the best trained in the county. They have respect for the public and they know their jobs inside and out.

To take away Qualified Immunity in any way shape or form is a slap in the face to these brave men and women. They need protection now more than ever. They face unthinkable situations at all times and need to be able to make life saving decisions in mere seconds.

I implore to you to make a stance and stand behind your men and women in blue! Look at NYC or Seattle.... do we want our beautiful Commonwealth to end up like that? NO!! Vote NO on Bill S2800

Thank you for your time,

Katie Radebaugh
11 Cottonwood Rd., Brookfield
katierades@gmail.com
From: Maureen Tivnan <mtivnan13@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 9:01 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Cc: O'Day, James - Rep. (HOU)
Subject: Concerned!

My name is Maureen Tivnan and I am a lifelong member of the Worcester community. I am emailing you today to please look over parts of the recently passed S.2820. I am a Worcester Public Schools educator where I have had the pleasure of working closely with the police, especially teaching in the Main South community. The students respect these officers and it creates a positive and strong relationship. Parts of this bill will not only effect police officers but all public employees such as myself.

As your constituent, I write to you today to express my strong opposition to many parts of the recently passed S.2820. I hope that you will join me in prioritizing support for the establishment of a standards and accreditation committee, which includes increased transparency and reporting, as well as strong actions focused on the promotion of diversity and restrictions on excessive force. These goals are attainable and are needed now.

I am, however, concerned at the expansion of this legislation, targeting fundamental protections such as due process and qualified immunity. This bill in its present form is troubling in many ways and will make an already dangerous and difficult job even more dangerous for the men and women in law enforcement who serve our communities every day with honor and courage. Below are just a few areas, among many others, that concern me and warrant your rejection of these components of this bill:

(1) Due Process for all police officers: Fair and equitable process under the law demands the same rights of appeal afforded to all citizens and fellow public servants. Due process should not be viewed as an arduous impediment, but favored as a bedrock principle of fundamental fairness, procedure and accountability.

(2) Qualified Immunity: Qualified Immunity does not protect problem police officers. Qualified Immunity is extended to all public employees who act reasonably and in compliance with the rules and regulations of their respective departments, not just police officers. Qualified Immunity protects all public employees, as well as their municipalities, from frivolously lawsuits. This bill removes important liability protections essential for all public servants. Removing qualified immunity protections in this way will open officers, and other public employees to personal liabilities, causing significant financial burdens. This will impede future recruitment in all public fields: police officers, teachers, nurses, fire fighters, corrections officers, etc., as they are all directly affected by qualified immunity protections.

(3) POSA Committee: The composition of the POSA Committee must include more rank-and-file police officers and experts in the law enforcement field. If you're going to regulate law enforcement, up to and including termination, you must understand law enforcement. The same way doctors oversee doctors, lawyers oversee lawyers, teachers oversee teachers, experts in law enforcement should oversee practitioners in law enforcement.

In closing, I remind you that those who protect and serve communities across Massachusetts are some of the most sophisticated and educated law enforcement officials in the nation. I again implore you to amend and correct S.2820 so as to treat the men and women in law enforcement with the respect and dignity they deserve.

Thank you,

Maureen Tivnan
66 Ridgewood Road
Worcester, MA 01606
From: Lindsay Jarvis <LindsayJ@lamacchiarealty.com>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 9:01 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Subject: Do NOT Pass S.2820

Good morning,

I believe the attempt to sneak attack the public by passing such harmful bills as this one within a tiny timeframe shows guilt on the behalf of the law makers.

If there was no real harm included in this bill then why not give even a week for it to be discussed and learned about by the public? It is because this bill contains truly harmful features like the loss of qualified immunity to all civil servants, and very few people in the state realize this, that the bill must not pass.

The loss of qualified immunity for police officers would change policing into a very "by-stander" type police force, where they could not do what they need to do to protect you for fear of losing their homes from a civil law suit. Same for teachers. Teachers would be subject to suing for a myriad of reasons, and I just do not think its right.

PLEASE DO NOT PASS THIS BILL AS IT STANDS.

Thank you kindly,

Lindsay Jarvis

REALTOR®, licensed in MA & NH
Cell - call or text: (508)948-8237
Office: (978)534.3400

Instagram <https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__www.instagram.com_lindzsells_houses_&d=DwMF-g&c=1DF7oMaPKXpkYvev9V-fVahWL0QWnGCCAfCDz1Bns_w&r=uoevGInjCfTlguYncQubxpi5R6db_gq1YmKr0SCk2EnIiuk13zIs16rchf_GkGDD&m=S47rYwDW3bZ0wonYWctF33ZpyqMUt17-PXfbyT4oLbQ&s=eHnpvV5pD6_vaW27_6xQEith25QIrKf7-nxjuanMMGw&e=>>
Facebook <https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__www.facebook.com_lindzsells_houses_&d=DwMF-g&c=1DF7oMaPKXpkYvev9V-fVahWL0QWnGCCAfCDz1Bns_w&r=uoevGInjCfTlguYncQubxpi5R6db_gq1YmKr0SCk2EnIiuk13zIs16rchf_GkGDD&m=S47rYwDW3bZ0wonYWctF33ZpyqMUt17-PXfbyT4oLbQ&s=dHpOwtr0-L5PRMxm9XHmRiT7HRw8VoaNexmCW47uHc&e=>>
Lamacchia Realty, Inc. <https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=http-3A__www.lamacchiarealty.com&d=DwMF-g&c=1DF7oMaPKXpkYvev9V-fVahWL0QWnGCCAfCDz1Bns_w&r=uoevGInjCfTlguYncQubxpi5R6db_gq1YmKr0SCk2EnIiuk13zIs16rchf_GkGDD&m=S47rYwDW3bZ0wonYWctF33ZpyqMUt17-PXfbyT4oLbQ&s=BlYd9PVU56QxkzOT5Iysm_J4q6517MrOA66WCHof7Ug&e=>> - 14
Manning Avenue, Suite 102, Leominster, MA 01453
Learn more about me, click here: Lindsay Jarvis

Member of Leading Real Estate Companies of the World®
<https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=http-3A__www.lamacchiarealty.com_leadingre&d=DwMF-g&c=1DF7oMaPKXpkYvev9V-fVahWL0QWnGCCAfCDz1Bns_w&r=uoevGInjCfTlguYncQubxpi5R6db_gq1YmKr0SCk2EnIiuk13zIs16rchf_GkGDD&m=S47rYwDW3bZ0wonYWctF33ZpyqMUt17-PXfbyT4oLbQ&s=TWHDcxF5U0C8evMjU2t_BIIYwMDA8r_9-ftJDYiegnk&e=>>

Emails sent or received shall neither constitute acceptance of conducting transactions via electronic means nor shall create a binding contract in the absence of a fully signed written contract. This e-mail message contains confidential and/or privileged information belonging to the sender and intended only for the review and use of the intended recipient. If you are not the intended recipient, any disclosure, dissemination, distribution, copying, review, or use of the information contained in this e-mail message or any attachments is strictly prohibited. If you think you have received this e-mail message in error, please notify Lamacchia Realty Incorporated and purge this e-mail message from your computer system immediately.

From: Black, Paulette <paulette.black@riversideinsights.com>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 9:01 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Cc: Rogers, Dave - Rep. (HOU)
Subject: Pass Police Reform

To: Representative Aaron Michlewitz, Chairperson, House Committee on Ways and Means

Representative Claire Cronin, Chairperson, Joint Committee on the Judiciary

Hello, my name is Paulette Black with the Greater Boston Interfaith Organization (GBIO). I live at 723 Belmont Street, Belmont, MA . I am writing to urge you and the House to pass police reform that includes:

- Implement Peace Officer Standards & Training with certification

- Civil service access reform

- Commission on structural racism

- Clear statutory limits on police use of force

- Qualified immunity reform

Thank you very much for your support for this critical reform.

Paulette Black

Paulette.Black@riversideinsights.com

617-671-8146

723 Belmont Street, Belmont, MA 02478

<https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-
3A__www.facebook.com_RiversideInsights_&d=DwMFAG&c=1DF7oMaPKXpkYvev9V-
fVahWL0QWnGCCAfCDz1Bns_w&r=uoevGInjCfTlguYncQubxpi5R6db_gq1YmKr0SCk2EnIiuk
13zIs16rchf_GkGDD&m=Aa5FhypJAxFkPFPi0V4J4o2XmFpb1xouTEbgatW3SNg&s=X2u5AC5y
Wm-1GRWstZUWvsMQLRpM-dnCyijcTQN5li8&e=>

<https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-
3A__twitter.com_1BillionLives&d=DwMFAG&c=1DF7oMaPKXpkYvev9V-
fVahWL0QWnGCCAfCDz1Bns_w&r=uoevGInjCfTlguYncQubxpi5R6db_gq1YmKr0SCk2EnIiuk
13zIs16rchf_GkGDD&m=Aa5FhypJAxFkPFPi0V4J4o2XmFpb1xouTEbgatW3SNg&s=l-
sB_7zFC9_wr53s4GYYL9siHDalvD7K44eIVhcsHYo&e=>

<https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-
3A__www.linkedin.com_company_riverside-
2Dinsights_&d=DwMFAG&c=1DF7oMaPKXpkYvev9V-
fVahWL0QWnGCCAfCDz1Bns_w&r=uoevGInjCfTlguYncQubxpi5R6db_gq1YmKr0SCk2EnIiuk
13zIs16rchf_GkGDD&m=Aa5FhypJAxFkPFPi0V4J4o2XmFpb1xouTEbgatW3SNg&s=XzVCsrXv
ErA5a8Zh-BgYo1Hh3Mw_eEaHTxB6EWsHh-c&e=>

<https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-
3A__www.instagram.com_1billionlives_&d=DwMFAG&c=1DF7oMaPKXpkYvev9V-
fVahWL0QWnGCCAfCDz1Bns_w&r=uoevGInjCfTlguYncQubxpi5R6db_gq1YmKr0SCk2EnIiuk
13zIs16rchf_GkGDD&m=Aa5FhypJAxFkPFPi0V4J4o2XmFpb1xouTEbgatW3SNg&s=dBG780pU
VdyLBBKovXlrTya-TKWdyxpGyPIHfviKgQ&e=>

Paulette Black

Assessment Consultant

Sales | Riverside Insights

630-467-6412 <tel:630-467-6412> | 617-671-8146 <tel:617-671-8146>

paulette.black@riversideinsights.com
<mailto:paulette.black@riversideinsights.com>

www.riversideinsights.com
<https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-
3A__www.riversideinsights.com_&d=DwMFAG&c=1DF7oMaPKXpkYvev9V-
fVahWL0QWnGCCAfCDz1Bns_w&r=uoevGInjCfTlguYncQubxpi5R6db_gq1YmKr0SCk2EnIiuk
13zIs16rchf_GkGDD&m=Aa5FhypJAxFkPFPi0V4J4o2XmFpb1xouTEbgatW3SNg&s=uLKlA3zV
b5hQ256Zvn_NUYrQ96zJLLaW8VFR2osqib0&e=>

One Pierce Place, Suite 900 W, Itasca, IL, 60143

From: Laurie Lankowski <ljlankowski@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 9:01 AM
To: Blais, Natalie - Rep. (HOU)
Cc: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Subject: Testimony

As your constituent, I write to you today to express my strong opposition to many parts of the recently passed S.2820. I hope that you will join me in prioritizing support for the establishment of a standards and accreditation committee, which includes increased transparency and reporting, as well as strong actions focused on the promotion of diversity and restrictions on excessive force. These goals are attainable and are needed now.

I am, however, concerned at the expansion of this legislation, targeting fundamental protections such as due process and qualified immunity. This

bill in its present form is troubling in many ways and will make an already dangerous and difficult job even more dangerous for the men and women in law enforcement who serve our communities every day with honor and courage. Below are just a few areas, among many others, that concern me and warrant your rejection of these components of this bill:

(1) Due Process for all police officers: Fair and equitable process under the law demands the same rights of appeal afforded to all citizens and fellow public servants. Due process should not be viewed as an arduous impediment, but favored as a bedrock principle of fundamental fairness, procedure and accountability.

(2) Qualified Immunity: Qualified Immunity does not protect problem police officers. Qualified Immunity is extended to all public employees who act reasonably and in compliance with the rules and regulations of their respective departments, not just police officers. Qualified Immunity protects all public employees, as well as their municipalities, from frivolously lawsuits. This bill removes important liability protections essential for all public servants. Removing qualified immunity protections in this way will open officers, and other public employees to personal liabilities, causing significant financial burdens. This will impede future recruitment in all public fields: police officers, teachers, nurses, fire fighters, corrections officers, etc., as they are all directly affected by qualified immunity protections.

(3) POSA Committee: The composition of the POSA Committee must include more rank-and-file police officers and experts in the law enforcement field. If you're going to regulate law enforcement, up to and including termination, you must understand law enforcement. The same way doctors oversee doctors, lawyers oversee lawyers, teachers oversee teachers, experts in law enforcement should oversee practitioners in law enforcement.

In closing, I remind you that those who protect and serve communities across Massachusetts are some of the most sophisticated and educated law enforcement officials in the nation. I again implore you to amend and correct S.2820 so as to treat the men and women in law enforcement with the respect and dignity they deserve.

Laurie McComb, Firefighter/Paramedic
20 King Philip Ave
South Deerfield, MA
413-522-6822

From: Jammie <jammie.carty@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 9:01 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Subject: Please stop S.2800

My name is Jammie Carty and I live at 73 Oak Rd in Canton MA 02021
<x-apple-data-detectors://4> . I write to you today to express my

staunch opposition to S.2800, a piece of hastily-thrown-together legislation. It is misguided and wrong.

Like most of my neighbors, I am dismayed at the scarcity of respect and protections extended to police officers in your proposed reforms. While there is always room for improvement in policing, the proposed legislation has far too many flaws. Of the many concerns, three, in particular, stand out and demand immediate attention, modification and/or correction. Those issues are:

(1) Due Process for all police officers: Fair and equitable process under the law. The appeal processes afforded to police officers have been in place for generations. They deserve to maintain the right to appeal given to all of our public servants.

(2) Qualified Immunity: Qualified Immunity does not protect problem police officers. Qualified Immunity is extended to all public employees who act reasonably and in compliance with the rules and regulations of their respective departments, not just police officers. Qualified Immunity protects all public employees, as well as their municipalities, from frivolously unrealistic lawsuits.

(3) POSA Committee: The composition of the POSA Committee must include rank-and-file police officers. If you're going to regulate law enforcement, up to and including termination, you must understand law enforcement. The same way doctors oversee doctors, lawyers oversee lawyers, teachers oversee teachers, law enforcement should oversee law enforcement.

In closing, I remind you that those who protect and serve communities across Massachusetts are some of the most sophisticated and educated law enforcement officials in the nation. Let me remind you that in 2015 President Obama recognized the Boston Police Department as one of the best in the nation at community policing. I again implore you to amend and correct S.2800 so as to treat the men and women in law enforcement with the respect and dignity they deserve.

Sincerely,
Jammie Carty

From: Natalie Korik <nkorik@comcast.net>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 9:01 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Subject: Reforming Police Standards Hearing

Dear representative Aaron Michlewitz and representative Clair D. Cronin,

We have strong objection to the provisions in the Police Reform Act. We believe that negative effects of such provisions are obvious - frivolous

lawsuits against the policemen who attempt to use legitimate force against the people who violate the laws. This will make police less willing to enforce the laws (the major function) and will impede their recruitment efforts.

Please consider changing the incoming legislation in the way that does not have these extremely negative consequences.

Respectfully

Natalie Korik

Newton

From: Katie Downes <kodownes@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 9:00 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Subject: Support SB.2800

Dear Chairman Aaron Michlewitz & Co-chair Rep. Claire Cronin:

My name is Kathryn Downes.

I live and teach 5th grade in Dorchester, and I am a new mother who recently joined March like a Mother: for Black Lives.

I write urging you to pass SB.2800, the Reform, Shift, Build Act in its entirety.

Please ensure that all aspects of this bill are intact. Do not be swayed by the panicked lobbying of police unions worried about the demise of their old comfortable ways of working the system and policing unfairly. The measures in this bill are BEYOND reasonable.

As a teacher, I cannot imagine resisting reforms that require me to act with more levelheadedness, equity, and lawfulness.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Kathryn Downes

18 Windermere Rd, Dorchester, MA 02125

From: Rachel Fuller DeAmato <rachefuller@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 9:00 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Cc: Wifey
Subject: S2820

My name is Rachel Fuller-DeAmato. I am the wife of Susan Fuller-DeAmato, an MIT Police officer. Susan has been an officer for about a year now. She left an amazing Monday-Friday, 9-5 job to follow her heart and her dreams to protect and serve. She wanted to be the change, the good. To help those in their darkest hours. And now she needs your help and support. Thank you for taking the time to read this.

The changes in S2820 are going to put our good officers in great danger. Also the people they are meant to protect and serve. They will be hesitant, for the fear of being sued for every single move, and decision they make. Police are meant to make split second decisions, and this bill is tying their hands. It will cause them to delay their response time, Can you really blame them? This delay in reaction, is not only dangerous, but could have deadly results for our officers. If the public wants better officers, stripping them of how to do their job correctly is not the answer. They need backing from local officials, they need community support. They need the tools to do their jobs correctly. More training. I feel we are quite lacking in Massachusetts. Our Officers and their training seems far beyond what is given in other parts of the country. This bill is not the solution for Massachusetts. I believe this will only make things much worse. We NEED our officers to have proper funding, and to have what it takes to do their jobs efficiently for the public's safety, and for their own.

It's incredibly sad, and disheartening what's going on in the rest of the country, But Ma, is not like the rest of the country. And it shows.

We are the moms of a 5 year old little girl. We are uprooting our family because we fear for our safety here in Somerville, Ma. There is so much disgusting hatred for police officers. Our city officials support this disgusting attitude towards Officers. My wife should be able to go to work every single day without worrying about having a target on her back. But sadly that is not the case. This bill will only make things worse for her and so many others like her. As a wife of an officer, you cannot imagine how stressful and scary it is when my spouse leaves for work. It's stressful and scary on a regular day. With this heightened hatred towards our officers, that's being stirred up and allowed by local officials, it's almost unbearable. My daughter picks up on this, as I'm sure many other children do as well. My point is this oath my wife has taken to protect and serve is scary as it is. Don't strip her of the tools, and protections to keep our community safe. To keep her and brothers and sisters safe.

I ask that you hear my words, my fears, and stand by my family, and the thousands of others just like us. Please. The changes to S2820 are not the answer.

Thank you again for your time.

Rachel Fuller-DeAmato
22 Clyde Street
Somerville, Ma
02145

774-644-5399From: Ingrid Klimoff <iklimoff@icloud.com>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 9:00 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Subject: support of S2800 +

?Good morning!

I urge you to support and vote for HD5128 (Rep. Liz Miranda),
And HB3277 (Rep. Michael Day).

Representative Miranda recently did a Zoom call with the League if Woman Voters, updating us on her bill(and that of Rep. Michael Day).
It is time for change. It is time to hold police to higher standards, to hold police accountable, and to be certain that a policeman who has been fired for outrageous misconduct cannot go to another town, city or state and work again as a policeman.

Yours truly,

Ingrid Klimoff
18 Bacon St.
Lexington, MA. 02421
Sent from my iPhone
From: ericalee07@aol.com
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 8:59 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Subject: S 2820

Dear Rep. Aaron Michlewitz and Rep. Claire Cronin,

My name is Erica Lenner and I live at 23 Quannapowitt Avenue in Wakefield, Massachusetts. As your constituent, I write to you today to express my staunch opposition to S.2820, a piece of hastily-thrown-together legislation that will hamper law enforcement efforts across the Commonwealth. It robs police officers of the same Constitutional Rights extended to citizens across the nation. It is misguided and wrong.

Like most of my neighbors, I am dismayed at the scarcity of respect and protections extended to police officers in your proposed reforms. While there is always room for improvement in policing, the proposed legislation has far too many flaws. Of the many concerns, three, in particular, stand out and demand immediate attention, modification and/or correction. Those issues are:

(1) Due Process for all police officers: Fair and equitable process under the law. The appeal processes afforded to police officers have been in place for generations. They deserve to maintain the right to appeal given to all of our public servants.

(2) Qualified Immunity: Qualified Immunity does not protect problem police officers. Qualified Immunity is extended to all public employees who act reasonably and in compliance with the rules and regulations of their respective departments, not just police officers. Qualified Immunity protects all public employees, as well as their municipalities, from frivolously unrealistic lawsuits.

(3) POSA Committee: The composition of the POSA Committee must include rank-and-file police officers. If you're going to regulate law enforcement, up to and including termination, you must understand law enforcement. The same way doctors oversee doctors, lawyers oversee lawyers, teachers oversee teachers, law enforcement should oversee law enforcement.

In closing, I remind you that those who protect and serve communities across Massachusetts are some of the most sophisticated and educated law enforcement officials in the nation. Let me remind you that in 2015 President Obama recognized the Boston Police Department as one of the best in the nation at community policing. I again implore you to amend and correct S.2820 so as to treat the men and women in law enforcement with the respect and dignity they deserve.

Sincerely,

Erica Lenners

Sent from AOL Mobile Mail
Get the new AOL app: mail.mobile.aol.com
<https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=http-3A__mail.mobile.aol.com&d=DwMFaQ&c=lDF7oMaPKXpkYvev9V-fVahWL0QWnGCCAfCDz1Bns_w&r=uoevGInjCfTlguYncQubxpi5R6db_gq1YmKr0SCk2EnIiuk13zIs16rchf_GkGDD&m=HSoBr0TFZkVf_BQHKOLzZiYFNc5lLZQx7pDNHKHX_b4&s=2kesgnEWZF-GDO-7pHfNOfrpIagUTbkt_b405RT9jbI&e=>>
From: Christopher Williams <cwilliams@montague.net>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 9:01 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Subject: SB2820

Dear Chair Claire Cronin and Aaron Michlewitz,

Please accept the following testimony with regard to SB2820, please see attached.

Respectfully,

Chief Christopher P. Williams

Montague Chief of Police

Christopher P. Williams

180 Turnpike Road
Turners Falls, MA 01376

413-863-8911 ex. 203

413-834-7215

From: Irene N <ireneneg@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 8:59 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Subject: Police Reform Act

Dear representatives Aaron Michlewitz and Clair D. Cronin,

I object to the provisions in the Police Reform Act restricting qualified immunity for police in Massachusetts. Such change will encourage frivolous lawsuits against the policemen who attempt to use legitimate force against the people who violate the laws. This obviously will make police less willing to enforce the laws and will affect our safety. This is a very unwise change and it will have very negative consequences.

Please consider modifying the incoming legislation in the way that prevents this from happening.

Respectfully

Irene Neginsky
Newton, MA

From: Leora Viega Rifkin <leora.rifkin@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 8:59 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Subject: Testimony

Chairman Michlewitz and Chairwoman Cronin,

Massachusetts can take a bold step towards ending systemic racism in policing by passing S. 2820, 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.

We need strong use of force guidelines for police in Massachusetts, public records of police misconduct, a duty to intervene policy, and bans on no-knock warrants, choke holds, tear gas, and other chemical weapons.

Please pass a bill that includes each of these critical reforms.

Leora Rifkin

51 Fayston St. Boston 02121

--

Sent from Gmail Mobile
From: A B <bunniegirl1399@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 8:59 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Subject: Bill S.2820

Dear Senators,

I am writing to request that you please oppose getting rid of or rebalancing qualified immunity. Please leave it the way it is. Our public servants deserve to have qualified immunity in order to have peace of mind to continue doing their jobs to the fullest of their abilities, without having the threat of a lawsuit hanging over them.

Sincerely,

Concerned Citizen
From: darrahgirl <darrahgirl@aol.com>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 8:58 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Subject: Reject Senate Policing bill SB 2820

Dear Members of the Massachusetts House of Representatives:

I am writing to ask you to reject the Policing Bill, SB 2820. It endangers public safety, removes important protections for police, and creates a commission to study and make recommendations regarding policing with a lopsided membership.

Section 49 alters our education laws to prohibit school officials from reporting immigration or citizenship status to any law enforcement authority or GANG MEMBERSHIP.

To think that school authorities would be prohibited from telling the police that a student might be a member of MS-13 or any other dangerous gang is extremely dangerous. Section 49 should be eliminated.

SB 2820 endangers our police by dramatically watering down "qualified immunity" in Section 10. This provision should be eliminated.

Section 52 should also be eliminated as it hinders an officer's ability to protect our roadways as well as him- or herself by not allowing them to ask someone who they have stopped about their immigration or citizenship status.

Section 63 creates a fifteen-member commission to make recommendations on policing. But, only 3 of the 15 are associated with policing. It should have more equal representation of law enforcement officers.

I oppose SB 2820, and at a minimum, it should specifically eliminate any provisions similar to sections 10, 49, 52, and amend Section 63 to have more police representation.

Sincerely,

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

From: Amy Ruef <AMR4359@msn.com>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 8:58 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Subject: Public Testimony for S2820

To whom it may concern,

As your constituent, I write to you today to express my strong opposition to many parts of the recently passed S.2820. I hope that you will join me in prioritizing support for the establishment of a standards and accreditation committee, which includes increased transparency and reporting, as well as strong actions focused on the promotion of diversity and restrictions on excessive force. These goals are attainable and are needed now.

I am, however, concerned at the expansion of this legislation, targeting fundamental protections such as due process and qualified immunity. This bill in its present form is troubling in many ways and will make an already dangerous and difficult job even more dangerous for the men and women in law enforcement who serve our communities every day with honor and courage. Below are just a few areas, among many others, that concern me and warrant your rejection of these components of this bill:

(1)?Due Process for all police officers: Fair and equitable process under the law demands the same rights of appeal afforded to all citizens and fellow public servants. Due process should not be viewed as an arduous impediment, but favored as a bedrock principle of fundamental fairness, procedure and accountability.

(2)?Qualified Immunity: Qualified Immunity does not protect problem police officers. Qualified Immunity is extended to all public employees who act reasonably and in compliance with the rules and regulations of their respective departments, not just police officers. Qualified Immunity protects all public employees, as well as their municipalities, from frivolously lawsuits. This bill removes important liability protections essential for all public servants. Removing qualified immunity protections in this way will open officers, and other public employees to personal liabilities, causing significant financial burdens. This will impede future recruitment in all public fields: police officers, teachers, nurses, fire fighters, corrections officers, etc., as they are all directly affected by qualified immunity protections.

(3)?POSA Committee: The composition of the POSA Committee must include more rank-and-file police officers and experts in the law enforcement field. If you're going to regulate law enforcement, up to and including termination, you must understand law enforcement. The same way doctors oversee doctors, lawyers oversee lawyers, teachers oversee teachers, experts in law enforcement should oversee practitioners in law enforcement.

In closing, I remind you that those who protect and serve communities across Massachusetts are some of the most sophisticated and educated law enforcement officials in the nation. I again implore you to amend and correct S.2820 so as to treat the men and women in law enforcement with the respect and dignity they deserve.

Thank you,

Amy M Ruef

amr4359@msn.com

(413) 822-7871

From: Linda Bisnette <bisnetteljb@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 8:59 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Subject: DEFEND THE POLICE

I am a relative of a Worcester police officer and a taxpayer of Ma. and I am ashamed to live in a state that would even consider having a policy to have an officer have the worry of criminals having the ability to civil lawsuits! Crime is brutal and the only way to stop it is with the great POLICE AND LAW AND ORDER! It will be catastrophic for you to adhere to the demands of this radical left movement, with this policy it will be very difficult to keep the police, who wants to do a thankless DANGEROUS job, with no support, and fear of ridiculous lawsuits by criminals? Please reconsider and LISTEN TO THE MAJORITY OF TAXPAYERS (WHO YOU WORK FOR)! This is a divided country but we need PEACE, FREEDOM and SAFETY, without POLICE THAT IS NOT POSSIBLE! There are some bad apples in every profession, work on that ,not punishing all! LINDA BISNETTE

Sent from my iPadFrom: Marie Smith <marieboston1190@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 8:58 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Subject: Police Reform Bill

I am writing to ask that you extend the period for public comments and delay it entirely until we as a state are allowed to meet as citizens to ask questions and provide comments in a PUBLIC forum. I do NOT support what is being considered and I am certain there are more like me who are unaware as you pass things at lightning speed. If you want to eliminate qualified immunity for law enforcement, I suggest you also eliminate qualified immunity for all civil employees, yourselves included so you can be held personally responsible for your destructive and dangerous legislation.

You can't be so ignorant that you are unaware at the state of New York, Seattle, Portland, Atlanta, Minneapolis and other cities being destroyed due to ill thought out legislation being passed overnight. Their cities are in shambles as the spineless leaders meet the illogical demands of a

highly organized, well funded international Marxist movement masquerading as a civil rights march.

What are the numbers of officers retiring, leaving or not joining? Where such ill thought out policies have now become the law, the cities are in chaos and the mobs have just increased their demands and have been emboldened. How many officers have been injured and even killed over the last few months? For what? How many early retirements or disability claims as of late? Stop blaming them for your feckless leadership and useless policies. I can't help but conclude that you are all just scared into silence afraid of being called "racist." It's a WORD that is so overused it's now become meaningless to anyone with a brain and I'd rather stand while we're still using words and not weapons.

How many innocent victims been killed? How many children have to die as police pull back from doing anything for fear of being charged as you legislate the criminals into the lawmakers? Are we going to have a Boston CHAZ zone soon? The legislation is pointless and you should be watching the law abiding citizens now amassing to counter the newly introduced policies, that's if they don't just pack up and move out as in NY.

You are doing nothing but pandering to an angry mob and not the rest of the citizens and as we are witnessing, there is NO appeasement. Bail has been reformed, prisons are being emptied and now you are essentially aiding in the elimination of law enforcement-- the anarchist's dream. Stop the gaslighting and get real with the situation you are supporting as I am not. And please read this part loud and clear for the record:

When they take over your police stations, what stops them from taking over your house?

Let that thought sit for a bit.

Ann Doherty

Ashland, MA

From: Colin Kennedy <kennec06@gmail.com>

Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 8:57 AM

To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)

Subject: S. 2800 amendments

As your constituent, I write to you today to express my strong opposition to many parts of the recently passed S.2820. I hope that you will join me in prioritizing support for the establishment of a standards and accreditation committee, which includes increased transparency and reporting, as well as strong actions focused on the promotion of diversity and restrictions on excessive force. These goals are attainable and are needed now.

I am, however, concerned at the expansion of this legislation, targeting fundamental protections such as due process and qualified immunity. This bill in its present form is troubling in many ways and will make an already dangerous and difficult job even more dangerous for the men and women in law enforcement who serve our communities every day with honor and courage. Below are just a few areas, among many others, that concern me and warrant your rejection of these components of this bill:

(1) Due Process for all police officers: Fair and equitable process under the law demands the same rights of appeal afforded to all citizens and fellow public servants. Due process should not be viewed as an arduous

impediment, but favored as a bedrock principle of fundamental fairness, procedure and accountability.

(2) Qualified Immunity: Qualified Immunity does not protect problem police officers. Qualified Immunity is extended to all public employees who act reasonably and in compliance with the rules and regulations of their respective departments, not just police officers. Qualified Immunity protects all public employees, as well as their municipalities, from frivolously lawsuits. This bill removes important liability protections essential for all public servants. Removing qualified immunity protections in this way will open officers, and other public employees to personal liabilities, causing significant financial burdens. This will impede future recruitment in all public fields: police officers, teachers, nurses, fire fighters, corrections officers, etc., as they are all directly affected by qualified immunity protections.

(3) POSA Committee: The composition of the POSA Committee must include more rank-and-file police officers and experts in the law enforcement field. If you're going to regulate law enforcement, up to and including termination, you must understand law enforcement. The same way doctors oversee doctors, lawyers oversee lawyers, teachers oversee teachers, experts in law enforcement should oversee practitioners in law enforcement.

In closing, I remind you that those who protect and serve communities across Massachusetts are some of the most sophisticated and educated law enforcement officials in the nation. I again implore you to amend and correct S.2820 so as to treat the men and women in law enforcement with the respect and dignity they deserve.

Thank you,

Colin Kennedy
98 Cleveland Street
Norfolk, MA 02056
Kennec06@gmail.com

From: Jim Williams <jimyweee@me.com>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 8:57 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)

July 17, 2020

Dear Chair Michlewitz and Chair Cronin,

My name is James Williams and I live at 14 Bristol RD Peabody, Massachusetts. I work at The Suffolk County Sheriffs dept @ South Bay. I am a corrections officer. As a constituent, I write to express my opposition to Senate Bill 2820. This legislation is detrimental to police and correction officers who work every day to keep the people of the Commonwealth safe. In 2019 the Criminal Justice System went through reform. That reform took several years to develop. I am dismayed in the hastiness that this bill was passed but I welcome the opportunity to tell you how this bill turns its back on the very men and women who serve the public.

????????????????????? ??????????????????: Qualified immunity doesn't protect officers who break the law or violate someone's civil rights. Qualified Immunity protects officers who did not clearly violate statutory policy or constitutional rights. The erasure of this would open up the flood gates for frivolous lawsuits causing officers to acquire additional insurance and tying up the justice system causing the Commonwealth millions of dollars to process such frivolous lawsuits.

????????? ?????????? ?????????????????? ??????????: The fact that you want to take away an officer's use of pepper spray, impact weapons and K9 would leave no other option than to go from, yelling "Stop" to hands on tactics and/or using your firearm. We are all for de-escalation but if you take away these tools the amount of injuries and deaths would without a doubt rise.

????????????????????? ??????????????????????: While we are held to a higher standard than others in the community, to have an oversight committee made of people who have never worn the uniform, including an ex convicted felon is completely unnecessary and irresponsible. When this oversight board hears testimony where are the officer's rights under our collective bargaining agreement? Where are our rights to due process? What is the appeal process? These are things that have never been heard or explained to me. The need for responsible and qualified individuals on any committee should be first and foremost.

I am asking you to stop and think about the rush to reform police and corrections in such haste. Our officers are some of the best and well-trained officers anywhere. Although, we are not opposed to getting better it should be done with dignity and respect for the men and women who serve the Commonwealth. I ask that you think about the police officer you need to keep your streets safe from violence, and don't dismantle proven community policing practices. I would also ask you to think about the Correction Officer alone in a cell block, surrounded by up to one hundred inmates, not knowing when violence could erupt. I'm asking for your support and ensuring that whatever reform is passed that you do it responsibly. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
James Williams #917

Sent from Jim's iPhone

From: Daye, Pamela Jean <PDaye@CityofMelrose.org>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 8:57 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Subject: Bill No. S2820

Rep. Aaron Michlewitz

Chair of the House Committee on Ways and Means

Sir:

I am writing to you, as a police officer of 30 years, to vote no on Bill No. 52820. The senate version of this bill will seriously undermine public safety by limiting police officers ability to do their jobs while simultaneously allowing provisions to protect criminals. Furthermore, the process employed by the Senate to push this through with such haste without public hearing or input of any kind was extremely undemocratic and nontransparent.

Police Officers across the Commonwealth support uniform training standards and policies and have been requesting more training for years. The Senate version of a regulatory board is unacceptable as it strips officers of the due process rights and does away with protections currently set forth in collective bargaining agreements and civil service law. I do not support any bill that does not include the same procedural justice safeguards members of the communities I serve demand and enjoy. The oversight board should consist of law enforcement officers as well as civilians. It needs to be fair and impartial.

Massachusetts police officers are among the highest educated and trained in the country. Qualified immunity does not protect bad officers, it protects good officers from civil lawsuits. We should want our officers to be able to act to protect our communities without fear of being sued at every turn. The majority of law enforcement officers do the right thing and are good officers, yet there is a real push to end qualified immunity which will open good officers up to frivolous lawsuits because of the actions of a few who, by their own actions, would not be covered by qualified immunity anyway. Changes to qualified immunity would be unnecessary if the legislature adopted a uniform statewide standard and bans unlawful use of force techniques which all police personnel unequivocally support.

I ask that you do not rush to pass this bill but meet with law enforcement officers around the Commonwealth to get their input in this matter.

Sincerely,

Officer Pamela Daye

MELROSE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Please be advised that the Massachusetts Attorney General has determined that email is a public record unless the content of the email falls within one of the stated exemptions under the Massachusetts Public Records Laws.

IMPORTANT NOTICE: This e-mail message is intended to be received only by persons entitled to receive the confidential information it may contain. E-mail messages may contain information that is confidential and legally privileged. Please do not read, copy, forward, or store this message unless you are an intended recipient. If you have received this message in error, please forward it to the sender and delete it completely from your computer system.

From: Rhea Eskew <rteskewjr@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 8:56 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Subject: Law Enforcement Reform

I support HD.5128, An Act Relative to Saving Black Lives and Transforming Public Safety, State Representative Liz Miranda bans choke-holds, no knock warrants, tear gas, and hiring abusive officers; creates a duty to intervene and to de-escalate and requires maintaining public records of officer misconduct.

Rhea Eskew
9 Woodfall Rd
Medfield, MA 02052

From: Abdi Ali <ali.moabdi@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 8:56 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Cc: Madaro, Adrian - Rep. (HOU); Rivas, Gloribel (HOU); Gingras, Steven (HOU)
Subject: Please SUPPORT & PASS the Reform, Shift + Build Act (S.2800)

Dear Committee Chair Aaron Michlewitz & Chair Claire Cronin,

As a Black man in America, I am no longer asking, I am demanding you and your colleagues to support and pass the Reform, Shift + Build Act (S.2800). Here is why! We have been dying in the hands of police for centuries and we have done everything possible to stop the police violence against Black and Brown people. We have voted, protested, marched, boycotted, went on hunger strikes, and conducted civil disobedience and sit-ins. Yet, we continue to be lynched, terrorized, traumatized, and dehumanized by the police in broad daylight, and justice always seems out

of reach. We are simply TIRED of asking and having the entire system's knee on our necks suffocating us for over 400 years!

For me, this is a matter of life and death. Black men are 3 more likely than white men to be killed by police during their lifetime. I already live in an overly policed neighborhood, so I am literally one incident away for being the next unarmed Black men killed by police. Living with such reality is truly horrifying only for me, but for my family and friends as well. More importantly, I have a 9-year-old Black boy and I don't want him to be living with the same constant fear. I don't want him to be fighting the same battle and experience the same trauma when he grows up. I want him to live in a state and country where his humanity and dignity matters. I want him to live in a state and country where its police force is held accountable.

I cannot raise my 9-year-old in a more justice society as long as the police power and violence remain unchecked. We cannot talk about dismantling systemic racism in policing without reforming the qualified immunity. Police accountability starts with getting rid of qualified immunity. To give you an idea, the qualified immunity is what made it possible for Derek Chauvin to still wear his badge after facing 17 complaints one of which was a fatal shooting. It is eventually what allowed Derek to brutally murder George Floyd in broad daylight and remain free until the world started demanding justice. It is what prevents victims and their families not to have a day in court. It is what shields racist cops and allows them to violate the civil liberty of Black and Brown lives

Passing this bill is simply the right and moral thing to do. We are in the middle of the largest civil rights movement in this country and I urge you and your colleagues to be brave and bold and be on the right side of history.

Thank you for your time!

Sincerely,

Abdi

--

"All of us do not have equal talent, but all of us should have an equal opportunity to develop our talents." President John F. Kennedy

From: B.J. Stitt <bj_stitt@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 8:56 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Subject: S2800

Please know I strongly support S2800, including the limiting of qualified immunity.

I believe it reflects a much needed clarity of the responsibilities of those authorized to use deadly force in dealing with the public. The very fact of that capability is inherent in all interactions with the police. The implicit power should be balanced as per the provisions of S2800.

Thank-you for providing an opportunity for citizen input.

Sent from my iPhone

From: Holly Battelle <hollybattelle@gmail.com>

Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 8:56 AM

To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)

Subject: Must Pass SB.2800, Reform, Shift, Build Act

Dear Chairman Aaron Michlewitz & Co-chair Rep. Claire Cronin:

My name is Holly Battelle. I am a resident of Somerville, MA and a member of March like a Mother: for Black Lives. I am writing this virtual testimony to urge you to pass SB.2800 the Reform, Shift, Build Act in its entirety. It is the minimum and the bill must leave the legislature in its entirety.

I was born and grew up in Boston and am proud that MA is considered a progressive state. This Bill is the minimum the State must do. We have a moral obligation to begin creating a more just and equitable society and this is a step towards achieving that. It is not OK for Black residents in 2020 to fear for their lives from the citizens whose very job is to protect their lives. If action is not taken, we will continue to be on the wrong side of history.

This bill bans chokeholds, promotes de-escalation tactics, certifies police officers, prohibits the use of facial recognition, limits qualified immunity for police, and redirects money from policing to community investment.

I urge you to ensure that all aspects of this bill are intact. We are in a historical moment and this bill ensures that we in Massachusetts meet the demand of this movement.

Thank you for your consideration of your request to give SB.2800 a favorable report.

Sincerely,

Holly Battelle

22 Claremon St. #2, Somerville MA 02144

From: Amy Hambidge <amyhambidge@snet.net>

Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 8:56 AM

To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)

Subject: Comments on Bill S.2820

Hello and good morning Massachusetts officials!

I am a resident of Buckland, MA and work for a small family business helping animals. I am writing to briefly extend my support for the latest

bill in the MA legislature, Bill S.2820. Specifically, I encourage you to end qualified immunity for police and law enforcement officers, to outline and make clear and legal accountability for police and law enforcement misconduct, and to reallocate my tax dollars, that are currently given to the police, to the education department.

That's all I have because I only just saw the 11am deadline and I need to get to work! And so do you! Have a great Friday.

Thank you so much,
Mx. Alphy Hambidge
Pronouns: They/Them

From: Diana Fisher Gomberg <dfgomberg@gmail.com>

Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 8:55 AM

To: Michlewitz, Aaron - Rep. (HWM); Khan, Kay - Rep. (HOU);

claire.cohen@mahouse.gov; Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)

Subject: Please support police reform

To: Representative Aaron Michlewitz, Chairperson, House Committee on Ways and Means

Representative Claire Cronin, Chairperson, Joint Committee on the Judiciary

CC: Representative Kay Khan

Hello.

I'm writing today as part of the Greater Boston Interfaith Organization (GBIO). I live at 290 Islington Road, Auburndale. I am writing to urge you and the House to pass police reform that includes:

- * Implement Peace Officer Standards & Training with certification
- * Civil service access reform
- * Commission on structural racism
- * Clear statutory limits on police use of force
- * Qualified immunity reform

Thank you very much.

Diana Fisher Gomberg

DFGomberg@gmail.com <mailto:Richardgomberg@gmail.com>

(617) 243-9424

290 Islington Road

Auburndale, MA 02466

--

Diana Fisher Gomberg

From: Mariann Bucina Roca <mariannbucina@comcast.net>

Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 8:55 AM

To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)

Subject: Virtual testimony to pass SB.2800 the Reform, Shift, Build Act in its entirety

Dear Chairman Aaron Michlewitz & Co-chair Rep. Claire Cronin:

I am a resident of Jamaica Plain, MA and I am writing this virtual testimony to urge you to pass SB.2800 the Reform, Shift, Build Act in its entirety. It is the minimum and the bill must leave the legislature in its entirety.

This bill bans chokeholds, promotes de-escalation tactics, certifies police officers, prohibits the use of facial recognition, limits qualified immunity for police, and redirects money from policing to community investment.

These are all reasonable, fair, and frankly common sense policies that better protect our community. On a human level, banning chokeholds and limiting qualified immunity are the right thing to do, given what we have seen in our country over and over again. And on a practical level, these are my tax dollars helping to pay for tactics that should be unacceptable to all of us in a society. The role of a police force, is to serve and protect.

I urge you to ensure that all aspects of this bill are intact. We are in a historical moment and this bill ensures that we in Massachusetts meet the demand of this movement.

Thank you for your consideration to give SB.2800 a favorable report.

Sincerely,

Mariann Bucina Roca

15 Kingsboro Park

Jamaica Plain, MA 02130

From: Cindy Levins <cmlevins@gmail.com>

Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 8:55 AM

To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)

Subject: S.2820

As your constituent, I write to you today to express my strong opposition to many parts of the recently passed S.2820. I hope that you will join me in prioritizing support for the establishment of a standards and accreditation committee, which includes increased transparency and reporting, as well as strong actions focused on the promotion of diversity and restrictions on excessive force. These goals are attainable and are needed now.

I am, however, concerned at the expansion of this legislation, targeting fundamental protections such as due process and qualified immunity. This bill in its present form is troubling in many ways and will make an already dangerous and difficult job even more dangerous for the men and women in law enforcement who serve our communities every day with honor and courage. Below are just a few areas, among many others, that concern me and warrant your rejection of these components of this bill:

(1)?Due Process for all police officers: Fair and equitable process under the law demands the same rights of appeal afforded to all citizens and fellow public servants. Due process should not be viewed as an arduous impediment, but favored as a bedrock principle of fundamental fairness, procedure and accountability.

(2)?Qualified Immunity: Qualified Immunity does not protect problem police officers. Qualified Immunity is extended to all public employees who act reasonably and in compliance with the rules and regulations of their respective departments, not just police officers. Qualified Immunity protects all public employees, as well as their municipalities, from frivolously lawsuits. This bill removes important liability protections essential for all public servants. Removing qualified immunity protections in this way will open officers, and other public employees to personal liabilities, causing significant financial burdens. This will impede future recruitment in all public fields: police officers, teachers, nurses, fire fighters, corrections officers, etc., as they are all directly affected by qualified immunity protections.

(3)?POSA Committee: The composition of the POSA Committee must include more rank-and-file police officers and experts in the law enforcement field. If you're going to regulate law enforcement, up to and including termination, you must understand law enforcement. The same way doctors oversee doctors, lawyers oversee lawyers, teachers oversee teachers, experts in law enforcement should oversee practitioners in law enforcement.

In closing, I remind you that those who protect and serve communities across Massachusetts are some of the most sophisticated and educated law enforcement officials in the nation. I again implore you to amend and correct S.2820 so as to treat the men and women in law enforcement with the respect and dignity they deserve.

Thank you,

Cindy Levins

59 Faunbar Avenue

Winthrop, MA

From: JEFF SULLIVAN <sull176@comcast.net>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 8:55 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Subject: Reject Senate Policing bill SB 2820

Dear Members of the Massachusetts House of Representatives:

I am writing to ask you to reject the Policing Bill, SB 2820. It endangers public safety, removes important protections for police, and creates a commission to study and make recommendations regarding policing with a lopsided membership.

Section 49 alters our education laws to prohibit school officials from reporting immigration or citizenship status to any law enforcement authority or GANG MEMBERSHIP.

To think that school authorities would be prohibited from telling the police that a student might be a member of MS-13 or any other dangerous gang is extremely dangerous. Section 49 should be eliminated.

SB 2820 endangers our police by dramatically watering down "qualified immunity" in Section 10. This provision should be eliminated.

Section 52 should also be eliminated as it hinders an officer's ability to protect our roadways as well as him- or herself by not allowing them to ask someone who they have stopped about their immigration or citizenship status.

Section 63 creates a fifteen-member commission to make recommendations on policing. But, only 3 of the 15 are associated with policing. It should have more equal representation of law enforcement officers.

I oppose SB 2820, and at a minimum, it should specifically eliminate any provisions similar to sections 10, 49, 52, and amend Section 63 to have more police representation.

Sincerely,
Jeffrey C. Sullivan

Sent from my iPhone
From: Kim <km323@aol.com>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 8:54 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Subject: Police Reform Bill

Good Morning:

I am writing to you this morning with great concern regarding the bill for police reform. As we are all aware there's a call for police reform and accountability in our nation. I am the wife of a police officer and our family has sacrificed a lot over the last 24 years to keep our city safe. I agree there is always room for reform, and I will never say police officers are perfect, but to be fair, neither are doctors, lawyers, nurses, teachers, etc. So I agree and believe change and scrutiny is always a good thing. My fear is our country is rushing to make decisions without thoroughly thinking through the consequences. Some of these changes I feel will be catastrophic to our police and more importantly our communities. Please look past some of the most vocal and demanding folks. Many people do not pay close attention to the day to day movements and my fear is in a the years to come it will be too late. Also, it appears the immediate reaction to "defund" the police has not presented any plan to reallocate the money for services. This may create a service gap that reduces services to vulnerable populations. There should be a plan how to implement change that is clearly thought out. These difficult decisions should not be made by emotion.

As a family we felt a need to voice our concerns to proposed changes that will potentially adversely impact our community. Please look closely and think of how each change in any law proposed will affect policing in our neighborhoods. Police are important, however, they are not perfect but neither are we. At this time, I am asking you to take the time necessary to make this decision and NOT to rush to please a small group of people who have become very vocal. I believe the most thoughtful decisions are made when time and consequences are considered.

Thank you for your time and I appreciate your consideration.

Kim Cogavin
27 Maxfield St
West Roxbury, Ma
02132
781-727-7617
From: Deborah Santoro <deborahasantoro@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 8:54 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Subject: testimony on S2800 from a constituent

Dear Elected Representatives in the Massachusetts State House,

I keep coming back to the fact that a police officer in Minneapolis knelt on George Floyd's neck for 8 minutes and 46 seconds, in full view of his fellow officers and other bystanders, on video. How do you countenance such an action in a civilized society? Let us not forget that black people are dying at the hands of people sworn to serve and protect, and that if we choose to ignore it and do nothing- we are complicit. Let us keep the focus on this one thing- how to prevent the killing of black people by police officers. People who commit such deeds dishonor their

profession. Doctors can be sued for malpractice, but apparently police officers have been immune to similar suits via the doctrine of qualified immunity. Asking for accountability does not mean we don't support, honor, and quite frankly need an honorable police force to serve and protect the Commonwealth. Honorable police officers will not be harmed by a call for accountability in their profession.

Please vote for S2800, the police reform act, in its entirety.

Thank you,

Deborah Santoro

59 Raddin Road

From: Danielle Stapleton <daniellelee215@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 8:54 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Subject: Bill No. S2820

To The Chair of the House Committee on Ways and Means, Rep. Aaron Michlewitz, in cooperation with Rep. Claire Cronin, Chair of the Joint Committee on the Judiciary,

It has come to my attention that the bill titled S2820 is under review and as it has been presented to you, I stand opposed to it.

The senate version of this bill as written will seriously undermine public safety by limiting police officer's ability to do their jobs while simultaneously allowing provisions to protect criminals. Furthermore, the process employed by the Senate to push this through with such haste, without public hearing or input of any kind, was extremely undemocratic and nontransparent.

Police across the commonwealth support uniform training standards and policies and have been requesting more training for years. My strong, smart, dedicated husband is one of those officers.

The Senate version of a regulatory board is unacceptable as it strips officers of the due process rights and does away with protections currently set forth in collective bargaining agreements and civil service law. The Senate created a board that is dominated by anti-police groups who have a long-detailed record of biases against law enforcement and preconceived punitive motives toward police. I will not support any bill that does not include the same procedural justice safeguards members of the communities we serve demand and enjoy.

What the Senate has tried to do is pass a knee jerk reaction to an incident which occurred half a country away that everyone agrees was egregious, the Fraternal Order of Police nationally and in this state had quickly condemned it.

Massachusetts police officers are among highest educated and trained in the country. My husband has spent countless hours on and off the clock continuing his training. These training are not limited to the use of lethal weapons- but there are numerous trainings for less lethal and deescalation tactics, as well as ethics and community building.

This bill directly attacks qualified immunity and due process. Qualified immunity does not protect bad officers. It protects good officers from civil lawsuits. We should want our officers to be able to act to protect our communities without fear of being sued at every turn, otherwise why would they put themselves at risk? A large majority of law enforcement officers do the right thing and are good officers, yet there is a real push to end qualified immunity to open good officers up to frivolous lawsuits because of the actions of a few who, by their own actions, would not be covered by qualified immunity anyway. It just doesn't make any sense why we are endangering the livelihood of many for the actions of a few.

Changes to qualified immunity would be unnecessary if the legislature adopted a uniform statewide standard and bans unlawful use of force techniques which all police personnel unequivocally support.

If the senate bill is passed in its current form the costs to municipalities and the State will skyrocket from frivolous lawsuits and potentially having a devastating impact on budgets statewide.

If the senate bill is passed, the future of this state, and this country as we know will be greatly impacted. Our officers cannot in good faith stand risk to lose their houses, their families, and their livelihood because someone got angry about a traffic ticket that was thrown out, and now seeks retribution. Our officers choose to be in this field because they WANT to HELP the community. Passing this bill as it stands may lead to a mass exodus of the GOOD officers. My husband has spent over a decade of his life dedicated to to his department and the community he serves. Our family stands in solidarity with our family in blue. Please don't let this bill pass and let our families pay the price for a knee jerk reaction.

Sincerely,
Danielle Mathias
36 Arnold st Ludlow Ma
01056
413-544-8769

Reference:
Bill No. S2820

Title: 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

From: Inga Puzikov <inga909@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 8:54 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Subject: Police

Please do not defund the police !!! They are the only ones standing between us, the people and total chaos. We are the emigrants and came from a socialist country where people could not speak up freely (only whisper in a kitchen) if they are not happy....we know all too well the price of a freedom of speech. We love America. Every life is precious and every life matter. Police is there to protect those lives because they are well trained, professional people. Please, do not fudge then based on one incident. But if they cannot get immunity and will be prosecuted for every move they make, they will simply do nothing...tax payers will pay their salary...and be not protected at all !!! You put innocent lives of law abiding Citizens at risk.
Please, do not do that !!!
Thank you.

Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android
<https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__go.onelink.me_107872968-3Fpid-3DInProduct-26c-3DGlobal-5FInternal-5FYGrowth-5FAndroidEmailSig-5F-5FAndroidUsers-26af-5Fwl-3Dym-26af-5Fsub1-3DInternal-26af-5Fsub2-3DGlobal-5FYGrowth-26af-5Fsub3-3DEmailSignature&d=DwMFaQ&c=lDF7oMaPKXpkYvev9V-fVahWL0QWnGCCAfCDz1Bns_w&r=uoevGInjCfTlguYncQubxpi5R6db_gq1YmKr0SCk2EnIiuk13zIs16rchf_GkGDD&m=kBq5qYnD9Z7qnPtVv2d0WUk70h4Ab-kKKj2YYOOeuUQ&s=6sK3rrJyN_073gdyqPoTRZUux3ueas5x9nTOVZBFGfw&e=>>
From: John Hubbard <john.hubbard80@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 8:54 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Subject: Bill No. S2820 Title: 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

Good morning,

* I would like to voice my condemnation of Bill S2820 as it is written. This bill was rushed through the senate without much thought and it shows. I think that it is time for the House to show that cooler heads can prevail. By taking a step back and voting no on the bill, with proper research, a bill could be created that would benefit everyone in the commonwealth. There are certainly areas that could improve in law enforcement and I think that by voting no on this bill as written, it would provide time for a committee to be formed, research to be completed and an intelligent solution found and presented as a new Bill. The issues in this Bill are important ones that can't be thrown together haphazardly

and expected to have a positive outcome for our citizens. The public was excluded from providing important insight on this bill. The fact that there was no input from the public tell me that the creators of the bill were aware of what input would be given by the public and that there would be resistance. Instead, they created the bill days before it was to be voted on the senate floor. I urge you to vote no on this bill.

* Police across the commonwealth support uniform training standards and policies and have been requesting more training for years. This is a great idea, but I would like to see it researched in depth. Where will this funding come from and how will it be instituted? Will the local municipalities be left to carry the monetary burden for this mandated training? Again, I'm being repetitive, but more time has to be put into researching the implementation of these points.

* The Senate version of a regulatory board is unacceptable as it strips officers of the due process rights and does away with protections currently set forth in collective bargaining agreements and civil service law. The Senate created a board that is dominated by anti-police groups who have a long-detailed record of biases against law enforcement and preconceived punitive motives toward police. The FOP will not support any bill that does not include the same procedural justice safeguards members of the communities we serve demand and enjoy. This is a sticking point for police officers across the commonwealth. I could understand if there were serious issues regarding officers in Massachusetts but that's just not the case. We have some of the best trained officers in the state and an incident that happened in another state shouldn't dictate changes to a system that works without much issue in Massachusetts. Officers need these protections. You are going to welcome frivolous complaints against officers and these boards will hear those complaints. I can see this ending badly when you involve people that don't understand the job of policing, case and point, our Senators. With the Bill written the way it was it's clear that they don't understand the current climate of policing in Massachusetts. We don't want the bad apples on the job and we do a fairly decent job of rooting them out.

* Their proposed makeup of the oversight board is one sided and biased against law enforcement. It is unlike any of the 160 other regulatory boards across the Commonwealth and as constructed incapable if being fair and impartial. There needs to be more thought put into this, and changes made. I think this can be accomplished by taking the time to do the proper research. Is this even really necessary?

* I've said this already, but the senate is jumping on a bandwagon with a knee jerk reaction and is changing a system that doesn't appear (in the 15 years of LE experience) to have been an issue here in

Massachusetts. Officers here are highly trained, and most are well educated individuals.

* This bill directly attacks qualified immunity and due process. Qualified immunity does not protect bad officers, it protects good officers from civil lawsuits. We should want our officers to be able to act to protect our communities without fear of being sued at every turn, otherwise why would they put themselves at risk? A large majority of law enforcement officers do the right thing and are good officers, yet there is a real push to end qualified immunity to open good officers up to frivolous lawsuits because of the actions of a few who, by their own actions, would not be covered by qualified immunity anyway. Officers can still be criminally charged for their actions and can also be sued in federal court for civil rights violations. It just doesn't make any sense why we are endangering the livelihood of many for the actions of a few. The thought that Qualified Immunity should be taken away blows my mind. Any change to the way in which it is written will have officers second guessing themselves and god forbid, outright refusing to get involved for fear of losing their homes and property. Through the research I've done, if Qualified immunity is taken away or changed for any reason, I'll have more protection by not taking action. That's a scary thought. This doesn't just apply to police officers either. This will affect police, fire fighters, teachers, nurses, doctors and the list goes on. If you vote to change Qualified Immunity I can guarantee that there will be a mass exodus of officers from the job. You'll also have issues recruiting candidates. Think about that for a minute. Who is going to take a job or stay on a job any longer than they have to when you could lose everything for doing the right thing? I noticed that officers would be open to a law suit if the persons rights were taken away and in the context of the bill I can only imagine that if someone had been taken into custody and at some point during the arrest that person was found not to be the suspect or probable cause was not found, the officers would now face a personal lawsuit. That's just one example of how that change would affect officers. I could have misread that article but for some reason I doubt that. This article more than anything will affect how policing continues into the future. Officers will be afraid to make that split-second decision that might hurt them, their family, or take their home from them. Bottom line, this is scary, and the fact that the senate saw a need to attack this protection is just absurd.

* Changes to qualified immunity would be unnecessary if the legislature adopted a uniform statewide standard. As for use of force incidents and choke holds, a complete ban on any defensive tactic is absurd. When an officer is in a fight for their life, you don't think they are going to second guess themselves in using a chokehold if that is all that stands between them going home or being killed? With all the oversight, the threat of being called a racist and being the next YouTube officer, guys are second guessing themselves every day. Take Sergeant

Michael Chesna for example. I can only imagine what went through his head in the seconds before his death, but he hesitated and for whatever the reason ended up not going home to his family that morning.

* If the senate bill is passed in its current form the costs to municipalities and the State will skyrocket from frivolous lawsuits and potentially having a devastating impact on budgets statewide.

* I know that police reform is the hot button issue these days, but your focus shouldn't be in places where problems don't exist. You should be concentrating on the victims of crime. Whether the officer was the perpetrator or not, laws need to be changed to better protect them. I'm sure that you are aware of it but if not, with the recent court decision regarding interfering with a police officer, if someone commits a crime against you and it isn't an arrestable offense, Officers have no power to force the aggressor to identify themselves? As an example if someone commits an assault and battery against you, and we are called to the scene (disturbance is over and everyone is just standing around) and the person that assaulted you refuses to identify themselves, Officers have no way to force that person to identify themselves. Assault and Battery in the past is not arrestable. I then have to tell you as the victim to contact your legislator to change the law, where in the past I would have been able to arrest that person for interfering with a police officer. Under the new ruling we are powerless to help that person seek justice, and their aggressor walks away. Interfering with a police officer now has to be committed using physical force. This is just one example of ways in which our jobs are being made more difficult and when legislation like this is presented and voted forward, it makes the future seem that much dimmer.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

John Hubbard

29 Robinson Creek Rd

Pembroke, MA 02359

781-733-3365

John.hubbard80@gmail.com

From: Robert <robert_irvine100@hotmail.com>

Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 8:54 AM

To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)

Subject: Police Reform

Good morning Ladies and Gentlemen:

Many of the thoughts produced on the legislation are encouraging. On the subject of immunity, what needs to be included are clear definitions of what would make an incident qualify for the individual officer to face litigation. I think the blanket coverage needs to be removed.

Additionally, any officer that uses his position to help someone escape the consequences of their actions (think fix speeding tickets, reduce charges) needs to be terminated. Look in any court house, this happens everyday.

The union contracts need to be looked at. For far too long cities and towns have just "gone along", we now have contract that make it hard to remove bad officers that are loaded with stipends that in the private sector are unheard of.

Lastly, do away with the Quinn Bill once and for all. Make it a requirement that to be hired you must have at least 60 college credits. In order to be promoted they must have continued their education. This is what happens in the real world.

I do not have much confidence in the state Legislature to make meaningful changes as you have had many opportunities but are afraid to show leadership. Prove me wrong.

Robert Irvine
Waltham, Ma
From: Michael Higgins <mphiggo@aol.com>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 8:51 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Subject: Police Reform Bill

My name is Michael Higgins and I have been a Worcester Police Officer for 21 years and have been in law enforcement for 25 years total. This bill was rushed and done without any public discussions. I have never seen anything that will effect so many done so quickly and so secretively. That alone has raised so many red flags. What you are doing with this bill is inviting problems into this state that we currently do not have. This bill takes away our due process, takes away our collective bargaining, and inserts a board with no training ,experience, or background in law enforcement. You will effectively be killing our profession. It will make the police officers you have now ineffective and our ability to hire qualified candidates in the future.

Thank you
Mike Higgins
785 Oxford Street South

Auburn MA 01501

Sent from my iPad
From: Jean Driscoll <jdris369@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 8:51 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Subject: Bill#S2820

To whom it may concern:

I am writing to express my opposition to Bill #S2820. As the wife of a career Police Officer, having lived the life of worry every single day he put on his uniform, I find it inconceivable to think that in the past month because of current events and the actions of few, this type of reform is being considered. I do not believe this Bill is well thought out and researched and implore upon this committee to rethink this bill and give ample thought to how this will ultimately affect the men & women who put their lives on the line everyday for those they serve.

A Faithful VOTER!!

Jean M. Driscoll
6 Huntington Ave.
Walpole, MA.

From: Lauren Woods <ljsmyth.woods@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 8:53 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Subject: Senate reform bill to the house of reps

All that I ask is that you take the time to review and understand your version of a criminal justice reform bill: Understand the consequences... understand the pitfalls... understand that forcing a bill just to say you passed one is not the right thing to do.

YOU have an opportunity at this moment to make meaningful legislation. Law that will work to better both the citizens of the commonwealth and help law enforcement do their job better. Most law enforcement officers do their job well. It's the few and far between that have gotten society to this point. I feel the senate hastily passed something that some even admitted to being confused on aspects of it.

Please note these two main points below:

WHY DUE PROCESS MATTERS- Any legislation must allow fair and equitable due process under the Law. Currently, when an officer is disciplined, he/she is entitled to due process and an appeal process with the employer. A new outside board (like the POSA Committee) should allow this process to complete before instituting a review. This will not only maintain

fairness, but will allow the new Committee to have a full record and make determinations after a thorough and neutral process has been undertaken. Other public employees such as teachers go through a similar process; police officers deserve the same respect and rights.

WHY QUALIFIED IMMUNITY MATTERS - Qualified immunity does NOT protect bad officers who knowingly violate the rights of members of the community. It's worth saying again. It does not protect bad cops. Instead, it protects good officers who play by and follow the rules. The doctrine allows lawsuits to proceed if a government official (not just a police officer) had fair notice that his or her conduct was unlawful, but acted anyway. The standard is objective reasonableness. By abolishing or changing qualified immunity as it exists today, police officers will not know what is lawful or not. This creates hesitancy and uncertainty in how they perform their duties. This is UNSAFE for all communities.

In closing, we are NOT Minneapolis. So, changing due process or qualified immunity in Massachusetts, which would affect police officers only in Massachusetts, would only serve to punish the men and women in blue for something that happened 1000 miles away. Instead of penalizing and scapegoating, we should be celebrating and promoting the fact that our police officers, some of the best in the nation, are impressive examples of how policing should be done.

On a personal note,
Every officer I have personally spoken to does not condone what happened to George Floyd. It was wrong. But we as a society can't jump 180 degrees and fault all officers for what that one officer did and those 3 officers watched. I know there can be police brutality incidents but the percentage of all interactions do not escalate and do not cause harm to others. Most officers join the profession to do good for others and good candidates are still joining the ranks even knowing what lies ahead with all this hatred against them just for wearing a uniform. In a day and age where an officer is killed in the line of duty every 61 hours in this country, people are still willing to step up and serve and protect. Yes, that's right, every 61 hours... and it's only getting worse because leaders think it's ok to cave to social media and hatred. There can be mutual respect in both sides. Officers can always be trained better but officers also have shown significant restraint over and over in the commonwealth, specifically in the city of Boston. If you aren't willing to better yourself and continue to improve at anything you do you shouldn't be doing it. That's why I'm asking the house of reps to not dig their heads in the ground and think they know everything. Be open to hear all perspectives. Be willing to listen learn and lead for the safety of all.

Sincerely,

Lauren Woods
98 Myrtlebank Avenue
Dorchester
From: Mary <mep5155@aol.com>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 8:53 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)

Subject: Police Reform Bill

PLEASE!! Don't sue the people who will save you no matter what...

PLEASE!! Rethink this bill...

From: Sal P <spaci51@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 8:53 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Subject: Email testimony

To members of the House Committee on Ways and Means.

I am writing to you as a plea. A plea for sanity and a plea for law and order. Events throughout the country have triggered a very vocal minority wanting to defund, change and dismantle law enforcement.

These issues have arisen from the murder of George Floyd by an officer using unjustified use of force.

Issues of police brutality in Massachusetts are one of the lowest in the country. The MPTC run academies do a great job of teaching recruits how to be Police Officers. They teach us de-escalation and appropriate use of force.

Currently the hot topic is Qualified Immunity(QI). The news and other media have made the public believe that QI exempts police officers from civil liability. This is not the case and US code 42 U.S.C 1983 is the vehicle which to hold Police civility liable.

What QI does do, it prevents frivolous claims from ruining the lives of Police officers. These frivolous claims are going to jam up the already overwhelmed court system, and they are going to cost municipalities millions in legal defense. This bill to limit QI not only effects police officers, but every government entity acting under the color of law.

Ending QI would be the end of proactive policing, which is what the vocal minority wants. They want lawlessness and believe it will be a Utopia. The real world does not reflect the views they dream of. Please look at New York City as a warning. NYPD eliminated their anti-crime unit. So far, shootings have gone up, and a one year old child was murdered.

Thousands of people are arrested every day. Most people arrested go into custody without incident. A small percentage resist arrest, which is still a crime. The laws that are being written are protecting these people who committed an initial crime to be arrested, then an additional crime in resisting arrest. These laws are not going to effect the general law abiding population, but are only going to benefit criminals who are looking to prey upon that population, then go after a pay check filling frivolous lawsuits after being arrested. Currently an officer arresting this individual would be protected by QI, and if the officer did violate that persons rights, would be held accountable under 42U.S.C. 1983.

In closing, ending or even changing Qualified Immunity would be a mistake and an injustice. The brave men and women wearing a badge patrolling the streets deserve to be protected from frivolous claims. The average citizen deserves to live in a peaceful society. The criminals who prey upon law abiding citizens deserve to be held accountable. Ending Qualified Immunity puts all of this at risk.

Thank you for your time,
Salvatore Paci

From: Sara Ting <sarating@worldunityinc.org>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 8:52 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Subject: Your leadership for change is needed now more than ever...

"Chairman Michlewitz and Chairwoman Cronin,

Massachusetts can take a bold step towards ending systemic racism in policing by passing S. 2820, 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.

We need strong use of force guidelines for police in Massachusetts, public records of police misconduct, a duty to intervene policy, and bans on no-knock warrants, choke holds, tear gas, and other chemical weapons.

Please pass a bill that includes each of these critical reforms." Now more than ever we need to implement these changes to ensure all citizens are justly treated,

Sara Ting

2 Eliot Place

Jamaica Plain, MA 02130

Sara Ting

Founder & President, World Unity, Inc.

2 Eliot Place

Jamaica Plain, MA 02130

Email: sarating@worldunityinc.org

Website: <http://worldunityinc.org>

<https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=http-3A__worldunityinc.org_&d=DwMFAG&c=lDF7oMaPKXpkYvev9V-fVahWL0QWnGCCAfCDz1Bns_w&r=uoevGInjCfTlguYncQubxpi5R6db_gq1YmKr0SCk2EnIiuk13zIs16rchf_GkGDD&m=fqw21ah8NFhzT0OvOunh68_3HYwVgg3PyBe-iQNd_fw&s=PXAXSMKoi-Fdrs_UXtW6R9GF5JJe4ep3OPnMgRoztoc&e=>>

Phone: (617) 971-0317

From: Elizabeth Iminski <nafd43@gmail.com>

Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 8:52 AM

To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)

As a firefighter for almost 21 years we have always had the support & backing of the police. They secure & make the scene safe, deescalate heated and often violent situations, and protect us as well as our community. It makes me utterly sick to my stomach and disgusted to hear about all the defunding of police & to take away their rights, immunity, and protection. I strongly stand with & support the thin blue line and if our politicians do not WAKE UP & Support them this great country of ours

will only continue to quickly deteriorate. I strongly urge you to vote NO on this proposed bill.

Respectfully submitted,
Elizabeth Iminski

Thank you, stay safe, and God Bless America.
From: Sarah Ehlinger <ssehlinger@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 8:51 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Subject: Police Reform

Dear Representatives Michlewitz and Cronin,

My name is Sarah Ehlinger, I live at 15 Wilsondale Street in Dover, and I am a member of the Greater Boston Interfaith Organization (GBIO). I am writing today to urge you and the House to pass police reform that includes:

- Peace Officer Standards & Training with certification
- Civil service access reform
- A Commission on Structural Racism
- Clear statutory limits on police use of force
- Qualified immunity reform

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,
Sarah Ehlinger
(617) 755-3010
15 Wilsondale St.
Dover, MA 02030

From: jnlcgrmn@bu.edu
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 8:51 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Subject: S.2820 Testimony

Dear Chair Michlewitz, Chair Cronin, and members of the House Ways & Means and Justice Committees,

My name is Jean-Luc Germany. I am a medical student at Boston University and a resident of Boston.

I am writing to you in favor of bill S.2820 to bring desperately needed reform to our policing and criminal justice system. I urge you to swiftly pass this bill and strengthen it.

The bill in its current form does a lot of good things that I know will help fix some of the problems my patients of color face with the police and the criminal justice system; but it also leaves a lot to be desired.

The final bill should be stronger in three areas:

1) Eliminate qualified immunity. We must be able to hold our police accountable. This should not be controversial. The current language in the

bill is simply too weak. Qualified immunity is a loophole that should be completely closed.

2) Completely ban the use of tear gas. The amendment introduced in the Senate to ban tear gas passed unanimously, except it did not actually ban the use of tear gas. The use of tear gas is an archaic crowd control measure that can permanently harm protesters and bystanders; it causes serious respiratory issues that will only increase the burden on our healthcare system, especially in a respiratory disease pandemic like the one we are currently in.

3) Completely ban the use of chokeholds. In its current form, the bill does not actually ban the use of chokeholds due to the narrow definition of a chokehold that includes intent. Under the current definition, Derek Chauvin's chokehold of George Floyd would not be illegal until the last minutes. That is outrageous. I believe intent language should be removed to ensure no one is killed on our streets like George Floyd was.

Thank you,
Jean-Luc Germany (Boston)

978-771-3192

From: Kenny Downey <kdowney14@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 8:51 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)

As your constituent, I write to you today to express my strong opposition to many parts of the recently passed S.2820. I hope that you will join me in prioritizing support for the establishment of a standards and accreditation committee, which includes increased transparency and reporting, as well as strong actions focused on the promotion of diversity and restrictions on excessive force. These goals are attainable and are needed now.

I am, however, concerned at the expansion of this legislation, targeting fundamental protections such as due process and qualified immunity. This bill in its present form is troubling in many ways and will make an already dangerous and difficult job even more dangerous for the men and women in law enforcement who serve our communities every day with honor and courage. Below are just a few areas, among many others, that concern me and warrant your rejection of these components of this bill:

(1)?Due Process for all police officers: Fair and equitable process under the law demands the same rights of appeal afforded to all citizens and fellow public servants. Due process should not be viewed as an arduous impediment, but favored as a bedrock principle of fundamental fairness, procedure and accountability.

(2)?Qualified Immunity: Qualified Immunity does not protect problem police officers. Qualified Immunity is extended to all public employees who act reasonably and in compliance with the rules and regulations of their respective departments, not just police officers. Qualified Immunity protects all public employees, as well as their municipalities, from frivolously lawsuits. This bill removes important liability

protections essential for all public servants. Removing qualified immunity protections in this way will open officers, and other public employees to personal liabilities, causing significant financial burdens. This will impede future recruitment in all public fields: police officers, teachers, nurses, fire fighters, corrections officers, etc., as they are all directly affected by qualified immunity protections.

(3)?POSA Committee: The composition of the POSA Committee must include more rank-and-file police officers and experts in the law enforcement field. If you're going to regulate law enforcement, up to and including termination, you must understand law enforcement. The same way doctors oversee doctors, lawyers oversee lawyers, teachers oversee teachers, experts in law enforcement should oversee practitioners in law enforcement.

In closing, I remind you that those who protect and serve communities across Massachusetts are some of the most sophisticated and educated law enforcement officials in the nation. I again implore you to amend and correct S.2820 so as to treat the men and women in law enforcement with the respect and dignity they deserve.

Kenneth Downey

2 Countryside Ln. Walpole

From: Kevin Reen <ktreen62@gmail.com>

Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 8:38 AM

To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)

The Massachusetts Senate hastily passed a bill on police reform without doing their due diligence, having hearings and educating themselves to what the serious consequences will be to their actions.

Under Senate Bill 2800 (2820 final version), the elected officials have effectively tied the hands of not only the police but all public officials. This bill removed qualified immunity from all public employees (except themselves of course).

What does that mean? That means that even if myself or my brothers and sisters in blue and red act in good faith under rule/color of law we will now be responsible and open to civil lawsuits. This also opens the municipalities we work for up to frivolous lawsuits for anything, costing you the taxpayers even more.

An example of this is we respond to a medical call where you have a loved one who requires CPR, we arrive on scene do everything we can within the scope of our training and department policies for your loved one but they

unfortunately don't make it, we are now open to civil lawsuits for damages.

This is just one major issue with this hastily drafted and passed bill.

It is also important to know that the elected officials who sold us a bill of good and promises of things they would do or stand behind are nothing but wimps who succumb to the bullying of higher ranking elected officials to ensure they keep their positions on appointed committees. I know this is probably no great shock to some but this is the stuff that needs to get out to the masses!!

People are calling for police reform for systemic racism and other injustices that occur. Well reform needs to and should start from the top. If our elected officials are so influenced by bullying and pressure from higher ranking elected officials then maybe the reform needs to start with our elected officials and work its way down. Our representatives, at least in the State senate don't give a crap about the people who they serve and the people who voted them into those positions. What they also don't realize is how easily it is for them to loose the support of their constituents and be voted out next election.

--

Kevin Reen
Swampscott Ma
781-718-3589
Police Officer

From: DEBBIE BELANGER <debbie.belanger@comcast.net>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 8:51 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Subject: S.2820

To Whom It May Concern:

As your constituent, I write to you today to express my strong opposition to many parts of the recently passed S.2820. I hope that you will join me in prioritizing support for the establishment of a standards and accreditation committee, which includes increased transparency and reporting, as well as strong actions focused on the promotion of diversity and restrictions on excessive force. These goals are attainable and are needed now.

I am, however, concerned at the expansion of this legislation, targeting fundamental protections such as due process and qualified immunity. This bill in its present form is troubling in many ways and will make an already dangerous and difficult job even more dangerous for the men and women in law enforcement who serve our communities every day with honor and courage. Below are just a few areas, among many others, that concern me and warrant your rejection of these components of this bill:

(1) Due Process for all police officers: Fair and equitable process under the law demands the same rights of appeal afforded to all citizens and fellow public servants. Due process should not be viewed as an arduous

impediment, but favored as a bedrock principle of fundamental fairness, procedure and accountability.

(2) Qualified Immunity: Qualified Immunity does not protect problem police officers. Qualified Immunity is extended to all public employees who act reasonably and in compliance with the rules and regulations of their respective departments, not just police officers. Qualified Immunity protects all public employees, as well as their municipalities, from frivolously lawsuits. This bill removes important liability protections essential for all public servants. Removing qualified immunity protections in this way will open officers, and other public employees to personal liabilities, causing significant financial burdens. This will impede future recruitment in all public fields: police officers, teachers, nurses, fire fighters, corrections officers, etc., as they are all directly affected by qualified immunity protections.

(3) POSA Committee: The composition of the POSA Committee must include more rank-and-file police officers and experts in the law enforcement field. If you're going to regulate law enforcement, up to and including termination, you must understand law enforcement. The same way doctors oversee doctors, lawyers oversee lawyers, teachers oversee teachers, experts in law enforcement should oversee practitioners in law enforcement.

In closing, I remind you that those who protect and serve communities across Massachusetts are some of the most sophisticated and educated law enforcement officials in the nation. I again implore you to amend and correct S.2820 so as to treat the men and women in law enforcement with the respect and dignity they deserve.

Thank you
Debbie Belanger
59 Sharlene Lane
Plainville, MA 02762
508-643-0954
debbie.belanger@comcast.net

From: Lynne Weiss <lynneweiss23@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 8:50 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Subject: S. 2820

Dear Rep. Cronin and Rep. Michlewitz,

I support for S.2820 the Senate's police reform bill and I urge the House to enact a similar bill as soon as possible so it can be signed by Governor Baker by the end of July. At this moment in the history of the United States, when glaring inequities in police behavior toward vulnerable populations have been made increasingly visible, it is essential to start addressing policing throughout the Commonwealth and I believe the provisions included in S 2820 will move us toward that.

I particularly support the Senate bill's approach to the creation of a state-wide certification board and state-wide training standards, limits on use of force, the duty to intervene if an officer witnesses misconduct by another officer, banning racial profiling and mandating the collection

of racial data for police stops, civilian approval required for the purchase of military equipment, the prohibition of nondisclosure agreements in police misconduct cases, and allowing the Governor to select a colonel from outside the state police force, as well as all of the provisions requested by the Black and Latino Legislative Caucus.

I support allowing local Superintendents of Schools, not a state mandate, to decide whether police officers (school resource officers) are helpful in their own schools. Municipalities should be able to make this decision for themselves.

I also support the Senate bill's small modifications to qualified immunity for police officers. Under this bill, police officers would continue to have qualified immunity if they act in a reasonable way, and they would continue to be financially indemnified by the tax-payers in their municipalities. Police officers should not, however, be immune to prosecution if they engage in egregious misconduct, even if case law has not previously established that this particular form of misconduct is egregious.

Most importantly, I hope a good police reform bill will be enacted by the end of July. Thank you for giving attention to this important priority, along with all the other important issues the House is addressing.

Lynne Weiss
617 504 8459
member, Safe Medford
40 Greenleaf Avenue
Medford MA 02155
From: Siera Barton <siera.a.barton@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 8:50 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Subject: Please advocate for Expungement in Massachusetts in house bill focused on racial justice

Dear MA Judiciary,

My name is Siera Barton and I am from Cambridge, MA. I am reaching out about the effort to expand the existing youth expungement law so that it is more accessible to young people in Massachusetts. As a public health professional, specifically working in community violence intervention and prevention, I want our state to commit to upstream solutions, such as financial investments in communities, housing first, and a robust social safety net, which all contribute to safer communities. I want to live in a society that prioritizes growth, not punishment.

Let's amend the expungement law applying our understanding of young adult recidivism rates (young adults have a 76% recidivism rate over three years), cognitive brain development (people are more risk averse before their mid-twenties), and the seven year expiration of a criminal record's effectiveness as a tool for public safety.

The current law is very exclusive and most young people cannot qualify. It doesn't even distinguish between a conviction versus a dismissed case. Race plays a central role in the problem with criminal records. Black youth are three times more likely to be arrested than their white peers. Black individuals are six times more likely to go to jail than whites despite being just 7.5% of the population. People of color are over-represented at every stage of the legal system and expungement will go a long way to undo the harm from this systemic racism. Criminal records stay with people forever and prevent many from getting good jobs and education which puts an unnecessary strain on our economy. Records also have a very negative impact on mental health and they particularly hurt communities of color.

We respectfully ask for an amendment that will:

- * Allow for multiple offenses to be expunged (prior to age 21).
- * Remove the list of 150+ charges that automatically disqualify and let the judge decide. Charges don't reflect the reality of an individual's character, guilt, likelihood of future risk, or ability to contribute to society in a positive way. Instead we should allow for judicial discretion. Since the 7 year felony and 3 year misdemeanor wait periods only begin at the end of one's sentence, the most severe charges like murder and aggravated rape which come with life sentences will never be eligible.
- * Differentiate between convictions and dismissed cases. Not all charges are equal.

I know that the Legislature is planning to pass legislation to address police accountability and racial justice and I would really appreciate your support to make sure an expansion to the expungement law is included. As your constituent, I would appreciate your leadership on this issue.

Thank you for your consideration! This issue is very important to me, the young people in our community, and the entire Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Sincerely,

Siera Barton

From: Susan Feeney <feeney_s@msn.com>

Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 8:50 AM

To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)

Subject: Opposed

Good morning,

I am strongly opposed to bill S.2820. This bill ties the hands of our police officers and creates a dangerous situation for our communities and our police. I would also like to point out that we have not had any problems with policing in this state and have been congratulated for our great practices and the professionalism of our police. An incident that took place 1,200 miles away should not dictate what we do here, as it does not in any other situation. This is an obvious political move and disgraceful.

* Altogether banning any type of force is dangerous as the public can use any type of force against those who protect us. If a police officer is fighting for his life, you are saying he/she is not able to save his/her life if a chokehold is his/her only option. Yet, a person can use a chokehold to kill a police officer. Chokeholds are already limited to lethal force. Limiting force in certain situations is more logical than outright banning it.

* Creating a certification process without the opportunity or due process is a dangerous road to go down with all of the frivolous complaints that are made against police officers just due to the nature of their job. The argument keeps coming up that most other states have a certification process. Well, most other states do not have the level of training our police officers have and that is why Massachusetts won't accept other state's certifications already. Again, other states with certification have had the problems where Massachusetts has not.

* Qualified immunity is what allows a police officer to do his/her job. I will leave you with a few scenarios

* One of your loved ones drops from a heart attack. There is no pulse when the police arrive, they immediately start CPR. During CPR, trying to save your loved ones life, they break a rib (very common with CPR), As it stands now, police are covered by qualified immunity because they were acting upon their training, in good faith, and trying to save a life. Without qualified immunity, the Supreme Court has ruled that a police officer would be more protected to NOT try and save a life then try and help. Without qualified immunity, that officer could be sued for breaking that rib while trying to save a life.

* You and your family members are involved in a horrific car accident, a police officer activated his blue lights and siren and follows his training and legal authority to get to the scene as quickly and safely as possible to save your child's life as you look on helpless stuck in the car. On the way, the officer is involved in an accident themselves rushing to try and help your family. Without qualified immunity, this officer can now be personally sued by the other party involved in the accident even though they were acting in good faith and within the boundaries of the law and their training. Do you think that officer is going to get there so quick next time to try and save your family when seconds count?

* Domestic violence may take a turn for the worse with officers afraid to arrest and be sued.

* A person calls because a dog is in distress in a hot car. Before, the officer would break the window to save the dog. Without qualified immunity, that officer could be sued for breaking that window and therefore may not feel comfortable doing so. According to the Supreme Court, officers are not required to act.

* There are a million scenarios that are running through my head. Think of any situation that an officer responds to and there is the possibility to be sued without qualified immunity for simply doing their job. Without qualified immunity, officers will either hesitate to act or not act at all.

* Some things you could do to help:

* Stop pulling training funding for police.

* Bring back the Quinn Bill to bring in higher educated police officers who are proved to use less force.

* Fund body cameras to hold everyone accountable. I have a feeling this one is not in there because you do not want proof that goes against your party line. You don't want to see what police officers really deal with on a daily basis.

* Stop taking away non-lethal force options so you only leave a police officer with a lethal force option.

There is no need to villainize the men and women of the Commonwealth who lay their lives on the line every day or you. I know some of you use even them on a regular basis for your own protection at home or at the office. Policing is a noble profession and should be treated as such as nothing has happened with Massachusetts trained police officers to make you think otherwise. Passing this bill and changing policing under the guise of national rhetoric is dangerous and irresponsible. Please use some common sense, read actual facts and studies (not the media) and think about the citizens in the state, and the children who have to grow up in this state, who need police services on a daily basis rather than your political party line. Most of all, do not make knee jerk decisions without the proper time to research and be sure a safe and effective bill is being passed.

Thank you for your time.

Susan Feeney
Beverly, MA

Sent from my iPhone

From: Carolyn Marsden <carolynvmarsden@gmail.com>

Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 8:43 AM

To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)

Subject: Pass a Strong Police Accountability Bill with Key Provisions from S.2820

Dear Chairs HWM & Judiciary,

I urge you to pass legislation that establishes real oversight and accountability for police.

Our law enforcement system is rife with systemic racism that manifests in poignant police murders of unarmed black people, brutality and excessive use of force, unlawful arrests, and unnecessary police contact. The House of Representatives and Senate should ultimately pass a bill that ends qualified immunity in most instances, reduces and oversees police use of force, removes police from schools, expands juvenile expungement, and establishes funds to improve re-entry from incarceration.

The shielding of law enforcement from accountability for violating people's rights through qualified immunity is unacceptable and irresponsible. Police should be held to professionalism standards that limit misconduct similar to doctors or lawyers, who cannot commit malpractice with impunity. Additionally, we need to stop surveilling juveniles with police in schools, collect data, and let young people expunge records related to mistakes they made as a child. If we invest in communities of color and hold police accountable for their misuse of power, then we will have safer communities, less crime, and more respect for the justice system.

This is an urgent matter, and I want to stand up for all families that have lost loved ones to police violence. Please pass a bill that includes at a minimum the provisions of the senate bill.

Sincerely,

Carolyn Marsden
1057 Main St Apt 9
Walpole, MA 02081
carolynvmarsden@gmail.com

From: Christine McElroy <cmcelroy52@gmail.com>

Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 8:50 AM

To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)

Subject: Accountability for Police

To: Representative Aaron Michlewitz, Chairperson, House Committee on Ways and Means

Representative Claire Cronin, Chairperson, Joint Committee on the Judiciary

Hello, my name is Christine McElroy with the Greater Boston Interfaith Organization (GBIO). I live at 4 Morrison Ct in Cambridge. My family and I have had encounters with the police and realize how broad their powers of discretion are to use for restraint and moderation or to use for power and force. They need to know that they are not above the law.

I am writing to urge you and the House to pass police reform that includes:

- * Implement Peace Officer Standards & Training with certification
- * Civil service access reform
- * Commission on structural racism
- * Clear statutory limits on police use of force
- * Qualified immunity reform (definitely)

Thank you very much.

Christine McElroy

Cmcelroy52@gmail.com

617-852-8065

4 Morrison Ct

Cambridge, MA 02140

Sent from my iPhone
From: jboggs76@gmail.com
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 8:50 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Subject: S.2820

Dear Senator Julian Cyr,

My name is Jennifer Boggs and I live at 58 Osprey Lane in East Sandwich Ma. As your constituent, I write to you today to express staunch opposition to S.2820, a piece of hastily-thrown-together legislation that will hamper law enforcement efforts across the Commonwealth. It robs police officers of the same Constitutional Rights extended to citizens across the nation. It is misguided and wrong.

Like most of my neighbors, I am dismayed at the scarcity of respect and protections extended to police officers in your proposed reforms. While

there is always room for improvement in policing, the proposed legislation has far too many flaws. Of the many concerns, three, in particular, stand out and demand immediate attention, modification and/or correction. Those issues are:

(1) Due Process for all police officers: Fair and equitable process under the law. The appeal processes afforded to police officers have been in place for generations. They deserve to maintain the right to appeal given to all of our public servants.

(2) Qualified Immunity: Qualified Immunity does not protect problem police officers. Qualified Immunity is extended to all public employees who act reasonably and in compliance with the rules and regulations of their respective departments, not just police officers. Qualified Immunity protects all public employees, as well as their municipalities, from frivolously unrealistic lawsuits.

(3) POSA Committee: The composition of the POSA Committee must include rank-and-file police officers. If you're going to regulate law enforcement, up to and including termination, you must understand law enforcement. The same way doctors oversee doctors, lawyers oversee lawyers, teachers oversee teachers, law enforcement should oversee law enforcement.

In closing, I remind you that those who protect and serve communities across Massachusetts are some of the most sophisticated and educated law enforcement officials in the nation. Let me remind you that in 2015 President Obama recognized the Boston Police Department as one of the best in the nation at community policing. I again implore you to amend and correct S.2820 so as to treat the men and women in law enforcement with the respect and dignity they deserve.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Boggs

Sent from my iPhone From: Alden C <alden1003@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 8:49 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Subject: Please pass bill SB.2800

Dear Chairman Aaron Michlewitz & Co-chair Rep. Claire Cronin:

My name is Alden Cowap. I am a resident of Cambridge and I support Black Lives. I am writing this virtual testimony to urge you to pass SB.2800 the Reform, Shift, Build Act in its entirety. It is the minimum and the bill must leave the legislature in its entirety.

As recent events have brought to light, the police system in this country is far from perfect. It was built to be a racist system, and has maintained that to this day. While reforms are only the first step to protect black and brown lives against excessive police violence and lack of accountability, they are an important first step. I strongly support this bill and believe you should too. It will not hinder the police officers' efforts to maintain peace, but will signal that Massachusetts is a place that cares about the health, safety, and life of every one of its residents.

SB.2800 bans chokeholds, promotes de-escalation tactics, certifies police officers, prohibits the use of facial recognition, limits qualified immunity for police, and redirects money from policing to community investment.

I urge you to ensure that all aspects of this bill are intact. We are in a historical moment and this bill ensures that we in Massachusetts meet the demand of this movement.

Best,

Alden Cowap

Cambridge, MA

From: Katie DiMasi <katie.dimasi@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 8:49 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Subject: S.2820

To Whom It May Concern,

I'm appalled at the desire to remove qualified immunity from our first responders.

Qualified immunity does not protect bad police officers that break the law. They are still prosecuted. It protects good, hardworking police officers and other first responders who risk their lives daily to diffuse situations and actively protect our citizens.

By removing qualified immunity, you are making it possible for individuals to present frivolous lawsuits against our first responders. This is a waste of both time and money, and I fear that our police officers will constantly question their actions therefore endangering their lives and the lives of those they've sworn to serve and protect.

I fear for my husband's life when you look to remove protections from his job. He wanted to be a police officer his entire life, to be viewed as a helper, someone who serves his community, please don't take his rights from him.

Sincerely,

Kathleen DiMasi

From: Judi Harrington <jdharr123@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 8:48 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Subject: 2820 Opposition Letter

My name is Judi Harrington and I live at 1 Debbie Drive Spencer, MA 01562. I write to you today to express my staunch opposition to S.2820, a piece of hastily-thrown-together legislation that will hamper law enforcement efforts across the Commonwealth. It robs police officers, of the same Constitutional Rights extended to citizens across the nation. It is misguided and wrong.

Like most of my neighbors, I am dismayed at the scarcity of respect and protections extended to police officers in your proposed reforms. While there is always room for improvement in policing, the proposed legislation has far too many flaws. Of the many concerns, three, in particular, stand out and demand immediate attention, modification and/or correction. Those issues are:

(1) Due Process for all police officers: Fair and equitable process under the law. The appeal processes afforded to police officers have been in place for generations. They deserve to maintain the right to appeal given to all public servants including my husband working for the Department of Public Works in the City of Worcester.

(2) Qualified Immunity: Qualified Immunity does not protect problem police officers. Qualified Immunity is extended to all public employees who act reasonably and in compliance with the rules and regulations of their respective departments, not just police officers. Qualified Immunity protects all public employees from frivolously unrealistic lawsuits. My husband, police, fire and EMT's all deserve to have this continue for them working for the City of Worcester.

(3) POSA Committee: The composition of the POSA Committee must include rank-and-file police officers. If you're going to regulate law enforcement, up to and including termination, you must understand law enforcement. The same way doctors oversee doctors, lawyers oversee lawyers, teachers oversee teachers, law enforcement should oversee law enforcement.

In closing, I remind you that those who protect and serve communities across Massachusetts are some of the most sophisticated and educated law enforcement officials in the nation. Let me remind you that in 2015 President Obama recognized the Boston Police Department as one of the best in the nation at community policing. I again implore you to amend and correct S.2820 so as to treat the men and women in law enforcement with the respect and the dignity they deserve.

Respectfully,

Judi A. Harrington

From: Suja Agireddy <sagireddy@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 8:47 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Subject: Police Reform Bill

Dear Chair Michwelitz, Chair Cronin and members of the House Ways & Means and the Judiciary Committee,

I'm writing in favor of S.2820 to bring highly needed reform to our criminal justice system. I urge you to work as swiftly as possible to pass this law and strengthen it. I believe the final bill should eliminate qualified immunity (a loophole which prevents holding police accountable), introduce strong standards for decertifying problem officers, and completely ban tear gas, chokeholds, and no knock raids like the one that killed Breonna Taylor.

Sujatha Agireddy
Town: Sudbury, MA 01776

From: Vera Broekhuysen <vera.broekhuysen@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 8:47 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Subject: Supporting S2820

To the honourable Committee Chairs, Reps. Claire Cronin and Aaron Michlewitz, and members of the committee,
I am writing to voice my support for S.2820, the bill under consideration for reforming some of our Commonwealth's police standards and create more resources for Black and Brown people in our community as our entire judicial and law enforcement system continues to work towards becoming free of racial bias.

I am delighted to see the scope of the bill, which does so many needful things at once: reduce the potential for qualified immunity so that when law enforcement infringe on civil rights, they're called to answer for it; establish standards for law enforcement training and education in the equally crucial areas of de-escalation and appropriate use of force, AND the history of racism in this country, so that the implicit biases we all

carry can be fought before they turn deadly in a police officer authorized to carry a weapon and use force; and establish committees to monitor, report on and work to improve the disparities in the application of justice that racial biases inflict on Black and Brown people in our commonwealth.

In the course of the past month, I have been saddened to hear stories come pouring out of the woodwork in North Andover, where I live, and Haverhill, where I work, about Black and Brown people - including educators and clergy - being stopped more frequently by police and treated with more hostility by them than the average White person driving or walking by. I know from my work in immigration, how much more likely a Latinx person is to be stopped, asked for documentation of status in this country and possibly detained, than a White person.

In both North Andover and Haverhill, and throughout MA, we have the good fortune to be served by many, many, many phenomenal officers and other members of law enforcement. My advocacy for this bill casts no aspersions on them personally. But nobody, not one of us here in America, is free from implicit bias, and until we adopt changes like those proposed in this bill - accountability, data collection on instances of racial discrimination in law enforcement, strengthening of community relationships, and mandatory training on both racism and de-escalation for our officers - implicit bias unaddressed in law enforcement will continue to humiliate, oppress and sometimes kill Black and Brown MA residents.

Please support S.2820.

Sincerely,
- Vera Broekhuysen
30 Leanne Drive
North Andover, MA 01845
617.372.3245

--

Cantor Vera Broekhuysen
<http://verabroekhuysen.com>
<https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=http-3A__verabroekhuysen.com&d=DwMFaQ&c=1DF7oMaPKXpkYvev9V-fVahWL0QWnGCCAfCDz1Bns_w&r=uoevGIInjCfTlguYncQubxpi5R6db_gq1YmKr0SCk2EnIiuk13zIsl6rchf_GkGDD&m=A7c7Uo1_rl1jjSxnraJ9BjjloDdQ0vktmu4WoymSLUM&s=eSy_sdLX-lZ2_89fDGL81GLj8iHVPx5-NfEL9CrUxIO&e=>
vera.broekhuysen@gmail.com
617.372.3245

From: Anna Nowogrodzki <anna.nowogrodzki@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 8:47 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Subject: Testimony for House hearing on police reform bill

Hi,

I'm a Massachusetts resident submitting testimony for the House hearing on the police reform bill.

Name: Anna Nowogrodzki
Phone number: 607-252-6803

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. I strongly support many provisions of the Senate bill and it is imperative that the House include these provisions in their version of the bill:

- The same limits to qualified immunity that the Senate included. This is vitally important to protect the constitutional rights of Massachusetts residents.
- Amendment 80, which gives superintendents and school committees the ability to authorize a school resource officer, rather than the current unfunded mandate for every district to have SROs. Districts should have local control over their own budgets and policies.
- Amendment 108, which prevents schools from sharing personal information about students into local, state, and federal databases.
- Amendment 65, which bans tear gas, a chemical weapon banned in warfare.

Anna Nowogrodzki
Medford, MA

From: Segur, Timothy <SegurT@worcesterma.gov>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 8:47 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Subject: Police Reform

Good morning,

Thank you for taking the time to read this email. I am a police officer with the city of Worcester where I have worked for the last 15 years. I am an instructor in our police academy as well as a defensive tactics instructor for the state of Massachusetts. I take great pride in training police officers and believe that Massachusetts has the best officers in the whole country.

The recent reform bill that was passed in the Senate is going to have severe negative consequences for not only the police but also the public that we serve. There are a few areas of major concern that I would ask that you please give your attention to. First I believe what was passed is anti labor legislation. Second It removes the rights to due process. Third it also removes collective bargaining. Finally it inserts a board that has no training, experience or background in law enforcement.

I believe that these areas of the bill are of the utmost concern and should receive the most consideration. I ask that you please make the

proper changes to these areas Thank you again for taking the time to read this email.

Officer Timothy Segur
Worcester Police
Training Division
From: Samuel Botsford <sambots@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 8:46 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Subject: Securing Police Reform

Hello, my name is Samuel Botsford with the Greater Boston Interfaith Organization (GBIO). I live at 24 Monmouth Court Brookline, MA. I am writing to urge you and the House to pass police reform that includes:

- * Implement Peace Officer Standards & Training with certification
- * Civil service access reform
- * Commission on structural racism
- * Clear statutory limits on police use of force
- * Qualified immunity reform

Thank you very much.

Sam

From: Lauren Kleutsch <lauren.kleutsch@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 8:46 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Subject: S2820

To whom it may concern,

I strongly support many provisions of the Senate bill and it is imperative that the House include these provisions in their version of the bill:

- The same limits to qualified immunity that the Senate included. This is vitally important to protect the constitutional rights of Massachusetts residents.

- Amendment 80, which gives superintendents and school committees the ability to authorize a school resource officer, rather than the current unfunded mandate for every district to have SROs. Districts should have local control over their own budgets and policies.

- Amendment 108, which prevents schools from sharing personal information about students into local, state, and federal databases.

Lauren Kleutsch
2036876687
Boston Public Schools teacher
Arlington, MA

Sent from my iPhone From: Mariellen Fidrych <mfidrych@endicott.edu>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 8:45 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Subject: Opposition to S 2820

As a Massachusetts citizen, taxpayer and parent of a law enforcement officer, I stand opposed to S 2820.
To fast track this bill without debate on policy implications and fiscal impact is woefully irresponsible. There is no regard for the courageous men and women who put their lives on the line every day.
If passed, I will join fellow citizens to pass an initiative petition to overturn key provisions of this bill that are not only morally wrong, but dangerous to our society and to the people who keep us safe.

Mariellen Fidrych
Assistant Professor, Experiential Learning

Endicott College
Samuel C. Wax Academic Center 152
Beverly, MA 01915
978.232.2083

Endicott College <https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=http-3A__www.endicott.edu_Internship-2Dand-2DCareer-2Dcenter.aspx&d=DwMFaQ&c=1DF7oMaPKXpkYvev9V-fVahWL0QWnGCCAfCDz1Bns_w&r=uoevGIInjCfTlguYncQubxpi5R6db_gq1YmKr0SCk2EnIiuk13zIs16rchf_GkGDD&m=WzWY23gwy5DVFM_jaz0ZtQecLHmObjowiSLEihUajd8&s=x6EQb_1lJLFJayelqfBrNPlit9hjtXwUjxfgn06FhBg&e=>>

<https://www.usnews.com/best-colleges/rankings/internship-programs>
<https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__www.usnews.com_best-2Dcolleges_rankings_internship-2Dprograms&d=DwMFaQ&c=1DF7oMaPKXpkYvev9V-fVahWL0QWnGCCAfCDz1Bns_w&r=uoevGIInjCfTlguYncQubxpi5R6db_gq1YmKr0SCk2EnIiuk13zIs16rchf_GkGDD&m=WzWY23gwy5DVFM_jaz0ZtQecLHmObjowiSLEihUajd8&s=02GUgJjTkswm8hmAzu0LXpS6NRNydjrHlWHQrmNGrDw&e=>>

For students: please sign-up for an appointment on Handshake
<https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__endicott.joinhandshake.com_appointments_new&d=DwMFaQ&c=1DF7oMaPKXpkYvev9V-fVahWL0QWnGCCAfCDz1Bns_w&r=uoevGIInjCfTlguYncQubxpi5R6db_gq1YmKr0SCk2EnIiuk13zIs16rchf_GkGDD&m=WzWY23gwy5DVFM_jaz0ZtQecLHmObjowiSLEihUajd8&s=x6EQb_1lJLFJayelqfBrNPlit9hjtXwUjxfgn06FhBg&e=>>

13zIs16rchf_GkGDD&m=WzWY23gwy5DVFM_jaz0ZtQecLHmObjowiSLEihUajd8&s=kiVMir1Kys8j6n6GYd3Uk-dd0akt0hQIEwxtP4gsk6Y&e=>

For potential internship sites and employers:

<https://endicott.joinhandshake.com/>

<[https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__endicott.joinhandshake.com_&d=DwMFaQ&c=1DF7oMaPKXpkYvev9V-fVahWL0QWnGCCAfCDz1Bns_w&r=uoevGInjCfTlguYncQubxpi5R6db_gq1YmKr0SCk2EnIiuk13zIs16rchf_GkGDD&m=WzWY23gwy5DVFM_jaz0ZtQecLHmObjowiSLEihUajd8&s=Z6ySyRqaUBxcHow7aLhs31yeBqw4raablqgsLc-3SNo&e=>)

3A__endicott.joinhandshake.com_&d=DwMFaQ&c=1DF7oMaPKXpkYvev9V-

fVahWL0QWnGCCAfCDz1Bns_w&r=uoevGInjCfTlguYncQubxpi5R6db_gq1YmKr0SCk2EnIiuk

13zIs16rchf_GkGDD&m=WzWY23gwy5DVFM_jaz0ZtQecLHmObjowiSLEihUajd8&s=Z6ySyRqa

UBxcHow7aLhs31yeBqw4raablqgsLc-3SNo&e=>

Be <[https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__www.wsj.com_articles_colleges-2Dthat-2Dprioritize-2Dinternships-2D1506467220&d=DwMFaQ&c=1DF7oMaPKXpkYvev9V-fVahWL0QWnGCCAfCDz1Bns_w&r=uoevGInjCfTlguYncQubxpi5R6db_gq1YmKr0SCk2EnIiuk13zIs16rchf_GkGDD&m=WzWY23gwy5DVFM_jaz0ZtQecLHmObjowiSLEihUajd8&s=KhdJDZe9VwVhVlionP78BnyXcKligg2u46ahaClcl0A&e=>)

3A__www.wsj.com_articles_colleges-2Dthat-2Dprioritize-2Dinternships-

2D1506467220&d=DwMFaQ&c=1DF7oMaPKXpkYvev9V-

fVahWL0QWnGCCAfCDz1Bns_w&r=uoevGInjCfTlguYncQubxpi5R6db_gq1YmKr0SCk2EnIiuk

13zIs16rchf_GkGDD&m=WzWY23gwy5DVFM_jaz0ZtQecLHmObjowiSLEihUajd8&s=KhdJDZe9

VwVhVlionP78BnyXcKligg2u46ahaClcl0A&e=> st Colle

<[https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__www.wsj.com_articles_colleges-2Dthat-2Dprioritize-2Dinternships-2D1506467220&d=DwMFaQ&c=1DF7oMaPKXpkYvev9V-fVahWL0QWnGCCAfCDz1Bns_w&r=uoevGInjCfTlguYncQubxpi5R6db_gq1YmKr0SCk2EnIiuk13zIs16rchf_GkGDD&m=WzWY23gwy5DVFM_jaz0ZtQecLHmObjowiSLEihUajd8&s=KhdJDZe9VwVhVlionP78BnyXcKligg2u46ahaClcl0A&e=>)

3A__www.wsj.com_articles_colleges-2Dthat-2Dprioritize-2Dinternships-

2D1506467220&d=DwMFaQ&c=1DF7oMaPKXpkYvev9V-

fVahWL0QWnGCCAfCDz1Bns_w&r=uoevGInjCfTlguYncQubxpi5R6db_gq1YmKr0SCk2EnIiuk

13zIs16rchf_GkGDD&m=WzWY23gwy5DVFM_jaz0ZtQecLHmObjowiSLEihUajd8&s=KhdJDZe9

VwVhVlionP78BnyXcKligg2u46ahaClcl0A&e=> ges for Internships reported by

WSJ <[https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__www.wsj.com_articles_colleges-2Dthat-2Dprioritize-2Dinternships-2D1506467220&d=DwMFaQ&c=1DF7oMaPKXpkYvev9V-fVahWL0QWnGCCAfCDz1Bns_w&r=uoevGInjCfTlguYncQubxpi5R6db_gq1YmKr0SCk2EnIiuk13zIs16rchf_GkGDD&m=WzWY23gwy5DVFM_jaz0ZtQecLHmObjowiSLEihUajd8&s=KhdJDZe9VwVhVlionP78BnyXcKligg2u46ahaClcl0A&e=>)

3A__www.wsj.com_articles_colleges-2Dthat-2Dprioritize-2Dinternships-

2D1506467220&d=DwMFaQ&c=1DF7oMaPKXpkYvev9V-

fVahWL0QWnGCCAfCDz1Bns_w&r=uoevGInjCfTlguYncQubxpi5R6db_gq1YmKr0SCk2EnIiuk

13zIs16rchf_GkGDD&m=WzWY23gwy5DVFM_jaz0ZtQecLHmObjowiSLEihUajd8&s=KhdJDZe9

VwVhVlionP78BnyXcKligg2u46ahaClcl0A&e=>

From: Rachel Upshaw <rachelupshaw@gmail.com>

Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 8:46 AM

To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)

Subject: Pass SB.2800, Reform, Shift, Build Act

Dear Chairman Aaron Michlewitz & Co-chair Rep. Claire Cronin:

My name is Rachel Upshaw. I am a resident of Boston (Jamaica Plain) and a member of March like a Mother: for Black Lives. I am writing this virtual testimony to urge you to pass SB.2800 the Reform, Shift, Build Act in its entirety. It is the minimum and the bill must leave the legislature in its entirety.

It is imperative to pass this bill in order to right the wrongs of the past, create a safer city for all citizens, and hold police accountable. Boston must be a leader in this area in order to serve all its residents.

I urge you to ensure that all aspects of this bill are intact. We are in a historical moment and this bill ensures that we in Massachusetts meet the demand of this movement.

Thank you for your consideration of your request to give SB.2800 a favorable report.

Sincerely,

Rachel Upshaw
59 Wachusett St,
Boston, MA 02130

March like a Mother: for Black LivesFrom: Jim Weston
<jamesrweston@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 8:44 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Subject: Police Reform

Representative Aaron Michlewitz, Chairperson, House Committee on Ways and Means

Representative Claire Cronin, Chairperson, Joint Committee on the Judiciary

Hello, my name is Jim Weston with the Greater Boston Interfaith Organization (GBIO). I live at 4 Lantern Ln, Bedford, MA.

I am writing to urge you and the House to pass police reform that includes:

- * Implement Peace Officer Standards & Training with certification
- * Civil service access reform
- * Commission on structural racism
- * Clear statutory limits on police use of force
- * Qualified immunity reform

Thank you very much.

James R. Weston

jamesrweston@gmail.com

Home: 781 275 8934

Voting Address: 4 Lantern Ln. Bedford, MA 01730

From: Kathleen Colwell <kbcollwell@comcast.net>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 8:46 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Cc: Minicucci, Christina (HOU)
Subject: S.2820

Good morning,

I urge the House to preserve the Senate language in S.2820 that:

- * Creates an independent and civilian-majority police certification/decertification board
- * Limits the qualified immunity so that victims of police brutality can sue for civil damages
- * Reduces the school-to-prison pipeline and removes barriers to expungement of juvenile records

I request that the House improve the Senate bill by:

- * Strengthening use of force standards
- * Fully prohibiting facial surveillance technology
- * Lifting the cap on the Justice Reinvestment Fund

Thank you,

Kathleen Bradley Colwell
253 Hickory Hill Road
North Andover, MA
From: patrick574@aol.com
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 8:45 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Subject: S 2800 Police Reform Bill

I am asking for you to NOT support S.2820 as written. This bill was hastily written, with insufficient public comment. More so, it will impede law enforcement officers to fulfil their duties as they do today. Massachusetts has some of the best trained officers in the U.S. If this bill passes as written, all officers will now be second guessing every decision they have to make which could take precious seconds away from them possible resulting in serious injury or death to either themselves or the public they are trying to protect and serve. Almost every officer I know, of which I am a mother to two of them, are considering leaving the profession they love if this bill passes as written. Again, I ask that you NOT support this bill. Thank you

Sincerely,

Andrea Hennessy
636 Chickering Road
North Andover, MA 01845
978-771-8938
From: Philip Nassise <fdcollector@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 8:45 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Subject: Police Reform Legislation

As your constituent, I write to you today to express my strong opposition to many parts of the recently passed S.2820. I hope that you will join me in prioritizing support for the establishment of a standards and accreditation committee, which includes increased transparency and reporting, as well as strong actions focused on the promotion of diversity and restrictions on excessive force. These goals are attainable and are needed now.

I am, however, concerned at the expansion of this legislation, targeting fundamental protections such as due process and qualified immunity. This bill in its present form is troubling in many ways and will make an already dangerous and difficult job even more dangerous for the men and women in law enforcement who serve our communities every day with honor and courage. Below are just a few areas, among many others, that concern me and warrant your rejection of these components of this bill:

(1) Due Process for all police officers: Fair and equitable process under the law demands the same rights of appeal afforded to all citizens and fellow public servants. Due process should not be viewed as an arduous impediment, but favored as a bedrock principle of fundamental fairness, procedure and accountability.

(2) Qualified Immunity: Qualified Immunity does not protect problem police officers. Qualified Immunity is extended to all public employees who act reasonably and in compliance with the rules and regulations of their respective departments, not just police officers. Qualified Immunity protects all public employees, as well as their municipalities, from frivolously lawsuits. This bill removes important liability protections essential for all public servants. Removing qualified immunity protections in this way will open officers, and other public employees to personal liabilities, causing significant financial burdens. This will impede future recruitment in all public fields: police officers, teachers, nurses, fire fighters, corrections officers, etc., as they are all directly affected by qualified immunity protections.

(3) POSA Committee: The composition of the POSA Committee must include more rank-and-file police officers and experts in the law enforcement field. If you're going to regulate law enforcement, up to and including termination, you must understand law enforcement. The same way doctors oversee doctors, lawyers oversee lawyers, teachers oversee teachers, experts in law enforcement should oversee practitioners in law enforcement.

In closing, I remind you that those who protect and serve communities across Massachusetts are some of the most sophisticated and educated law

enforcement officials in the nation. I again implore you to amend and correct S.2820 so as to treat the men and women in law enforcement with the respect and dignity they deserve.

Thank you,

Philip Nassise

7 Mockingbird Lane

North Easton, Ma. 02356

fdcollector@yahoo.com

From: Julia Gittleman <juliagittleman@gmail.com>

Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 8:45 AM

To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)

Subject: Police Reform Bill Testimony

Good morning,

I am writing to urge you to support the need by the state to raise the age at which emerging adults are processed in the juvenile system from 18 to 20 years-old as part of the Police Reform Bill under consideration.

This is a key area for young people, especially our young men of color, to get derailed. In all the many efforts to promote racial justice and reform our criminal justice system, we need to prioritize not pushing our children into adult jail and serving them in a more developmentally appropriate juvenile system. Only 25% of Massachusetts' young adult population is Black or Latino, but 70% of young adults incarcerated in state prisons and 57% of young adults incarcerated in county jails are people of color. We need to get them out and keep them out.

The DYS census (juvenile system) is down and there is existing capacity to do this. The outcomes are better, education is required in the juvenile system, and we prevent young adults from being crippled by CORIs- all of which is better for public safety and the lives of young people.

Thank you,

Julia Gittleman

From: kate stephens <kelizabeth6726@yahoo.com>

Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 8:44 AM

To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)

Subject: bill S.2800

Good Morning,

I write to you today to express my strong opposition to the recently filed S.2800 and I ask that you vote NO when this bill is debated in the House of Representatives. This bill is troubling in many ways and will make an already dangerous and difficult job even more dangerous for the men and women in law enforcement who serve our communities every day with honor and courage. Below are just a few areas, among many others, that concern me and warrant your rejection of this bill:

In Section 55, this bill authorizes "any person" to "intervene" if they believe an officer's use of force is excessive. This language will be exploited and used as a defense by anyone who is charged with assaulting a police officer. This language will result in more cops being hurt and killed.

In Section 56, this bill authorizes for treble damages if a police officer is found to have submitted a false pay record. This would make police officers the ONLY public employees subject to this punishment.

In Section 6, this bill the POSAC Committee is granted broad powers, including the power of subpoena, in active investigations- even when the original law enforcement agency has conducted its own investigation. The current language sets the groundwork for unconstitutional violations of a police officer's 5th amendment rights against self-incrimination (see Carney vs Springfield) and constitutional protections against "double-jeopardy".

In Section 10, qualified immunity protections are removed and replaced with a "no reasonable defendant" qualifier. This removes important liability protections essential for the police officers we send out on patrol in our communities and who often deal with some of the most dangerous of circumstances with little or no back-up. Removing qualified immunity protections in this way will open officers up to personal liabilities so they cannot purchase a home, a car, obtain a credit card, or other things for the benefit of them and their families. I know 3 Officers I work with who stated they will quit if qualified immunity is removed. I am unable to retire this year but I will take an inside job and never work the street again.

Additionally, this bill rewrites sections of the 2018 Criminal Justice Reform Bill (see record expungement and corrections) as well as the Hands-Free law the legislature just adopted. Those bills were signed into law after the normal and appropriate legislative process of filing a bill, holding public hearings to accept testimony from citizens and thoughtful debate over a span of many months.

As your constituent I ask that you vote NO on S.2800, for the reasons stated above, and others. Policing has become increasingly dangerous and difficult over the years. We have seen difficulty in recruiting Officers. Legislation such as this will further deter people from seeking a career in Law Enforcement and it will force many Officers into early retirement.

Thank you,

Sergeant Kate Stephens, Salem Police Dept.
From: Daniel Girard <dan@g9financial.com>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 8:44 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Cc: Frost, Paul - Rep. (HOU)
Subject: Senate Bill 2800 (now S.2820)

From: Daniel Girard Jr. <Dan@G9Financial.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 12:38 PM
To: 'Paul.Frost@mahouse.gov' <
Subject: Qualified Immunity Bill

Afternoon Representative Frost,

Wanted to reach out and praise the work you and your peers are doing at the State Capital during these insane times. Also, wishing you continued success and health as we move forward with COVID-19 and everything else that 2020 is throwing at us all.

However, I'm reaching out today in regards to the Qualified Immunity Bill that has recently been presented on Capitol Hill and that our local state government is considering. I can tell you I am an informed voter. I pay attention not only to issues within the financial services field, which I've been deeply involved in over the last 20 years as a NAIFA member, but also to those bills that would deeply affect our community such as this one.

Any bill that would jeopardize and negatively affect our local and state police forces in Massachusetts from doing their jobs without hesitation and will result in those protecting the citizens of the commonwealth, from being unprotected in executing law enforcement... I find to be unacceptable.

Clearly, there are current provisions that allow for action to be taken against any government officials who willfully abuse their roles, such as what happened in the George Floyd case in MN. However, additional regulations can be seen as nothing more than a rush to action based on political pressures.

I ask that you vote against any bill that will make it even more difficult for our police departments, those who protect the good people of the commonwealth, to do their jobs to the best of their abilities and

effectively. Anything that would change the existing Qualified Immunity regulations will do just that and make our community less safe and create a distinct disadvantage for our current and future police forces to do their jobs.

Respectfully,

Daniel F. Girard, Jr., LUTCF

Managing Partner, G9 Financial

<https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=http-3A__www.g9financial.com_&d=DwMFJg&c=1DF7oMaPKXpkYvev9V-fVahWL0QWnGCCAfCDz1Bns_w&r=uoevGInjCfTlguYncQubxpi5R6db_gq1YmKr0SCk2EnIiuk13zIs16rchf_GkGDD&m=pWqTHtBf3UgUmnqHklM4gKtOuyP5RgJ-OG0t5iErdOE&s=DzGSNPMD9RbIravggdTcPdcvWoeod1kxnooZzk5sl8I&e=>>
<https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__www.timetrade.com_book_XYZHK&d=DwMFJg&c=1DF7oMaPKXpkYvev9V-fVahWL0QWnGCCAfCDz1Bns_w&r=uoevGInjCfTlguYncQubxpi5R6db_gq1YmKr0SCk2EnIiuk13zIs16rchf_GkGDD&m=pWqTHtBf3UgUmnqHklM4gKtOuyP5RgJ-OG0t5iErdOE&s=CZLL40uQFSjLzSyKkzRLALUCuH-jFi8z2RRpNLTW3HM&e=>>
<https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__www.linkedin.com_in_danielgirardjr_&d=DwMFJg&c=1DF7oMaPKXpkYvev9V-fVahWL0QWnGCCAfCDz1Bns_w&r=uoevGInjCfTlguYncQubxpi5R6db_gq1YmKr0SCk2EnIiuk13zIs16rchf_GkGDD&m=pWqTHtBf3UgUmnqHklM4gKtOuyP5RgJ-OG0t5iErdOE&s=pXRAWfiMtxTzoBV_VJkHDu5KwC_CbC-kh8ASdnJSQpM&e=>>
<https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__www.facebook.com_G9Financial&d=DwMFJg&c=1DF7oMaPKXpkYvev9V-fVahWL0QWnGCCAfCDz1Bns_w&r=uoevGInjCfTlguYncQubxpi5R6db_gq1YmKr0SCk2EnIiuk13zIs16rchf_GkGDD&m=pWqTHtBf3UgUmnqHklM4gKtOuyP5RgJ-OG0t5iErdOE&s=791SccRlt3h_GA6XSnP2uDhYA13qiVL0toqq8mlcDQ4&e=>>

P: 508-865-9599 x102 F: 508-635-6846

7 South Main Street, PO Box 678, Millbury, MA 01527

? We help those that want to be helped

? It's our responsibility to care

Notice: This e-mail message and any attachment to this e-mail message contain confidential information that may be legally privileged. If you are not the intended recipient, you must not review, retransmit, convert to hard copy, copy, use or disseminate this e-mail or any attachments to it. If you have received this e-mail in error, please immediately notify us by return e-mail or by telephone at 508-865-9599 and delete this message. Please note that if this e-mail message contains a forwarded message or is a reply to a prior message, some or all of the contents of this message or any attachments may not have been produced by G9 Financial. This notice is automatically appended to each e-mail message from G9 Financial. We cannot accept trade orders through email. Important letters, email or fax messages should be confirmed by calling (508) 865-9599. This email service may not be monitored every day, or after normal business hours. Thank You.

Registered Representative, Securities offered through Cambridge Investment Research, Inc. a Broker/Dealer, Member FINRA/SIPC. Investment Advisor Representative, Cambridge Investment Research Advisors, Inc., a Registered Investment Advisor. G9 Financial and Cambridge are not affiliated.

From: Joe Nabstedt <jnabstedt@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 8:44 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Subject: Police Standards

Chair Aaron Michlewitz and Chair Claire Cronin,

I'm writing this to show my support for the police officers of Massachusetts and to ask you to not pass this bill which would make their jobs much more difficult to do.

We were all horrified by the actions of the officers in Minneapolis, but those actions can NOT be aligned with Massachusetts police.

If this bill passes then officers will face a constant barrage of frivolous lawsuits and will be reluctant to perform necessary duties to keep citizens safe. Qualified immunity does not protect officers who commit crimes, it protects officers who act in good faith.

We need you to be the adults in the room and have the courage to do what is right. We've all seen the escalating violence across the country. This violence will continue if police aren't allowed to do their job. Thank you.

Joseph Nabstedt
Quincy Police Department
617-962-9363

From: Gary Quitadamo <quitagq@charter.net>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 8:44 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Subject: S.2820

?Hi Subject: S.2820

?

Dear House Committee on Ways and Means,

Hello my name is Gary Quitadamo and I am a Lieutenant for the Worcester Police Department and have been a police officer for approximately 30 years. First I want to personally thank you to allow public written testimony relative to House Bill S.2820. Unlike your Massachusetts Senate brethren, I firmly believe it is of utmost importance to elicit and allow public testimony when the legislature attempts to grapple with such an important public issue like Law Enforcement Reform. However, I respectfully would suggest the legislature and Governor Baker should not expedite such an all-encompassing and complicated topic and place unnecessary deadlines on this important issue. I firmly believe, no matter where you stand in the political aisle, we all believe a civil conversation must occur where all sides of this argument has the ability to be heard. All too often rushed legislature typically results in ineffective legislature/statutes.

As a police officer and registered voter I ask that you support the following issues of S.2820;

Ø Qualified Immunity (QI) - The Senate Bill significantly alters the language would eliminate Qualified Immunity for Police Officers and many more public employees (i.e. correctional officers). At minimum a committee should be established to study the resulting profound effect on Law Enforcement if QI was eliminated. The Senate bill significantly alters language that has been historically supported by federal case law.

Ø Due Process / Collective Bargaining for Police Officers - The Senate Bill as written will remove the right of due process for police officers. It will eliminate the right to be heard by an independent and neutral arbiter which has been the our right for more than 50 years.

Ø Police Officer's Standards & Accreditation Committee (POSAC) - The proposed Senate Bill establishes the aforementioned committee which will have power to decertify an officer when complaints are filed, reviewed, and adjudicated. My issue with this proposal is the make-up of

the committee, which will be mostly civilians with no experience or knowledge of law enforcement practices. Like all other professions (doctors, dentists, teachers, and all public employees) our goal is to ensure the make-up of the committee (at minimum the majority) include law enforcement representatives and/or civilians with law enforcement background, degrees, and/or experience.

Respectfully,

Gary Quitadamo

30 Leela Lane

Rochdale, MA 01542

(508) 340-7558

From: Adam Lang <ajlang@bu.edu>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 8:43 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Subject: Testimony in Support of Police Accountability

July 17, 2020

The Honorable Rep. Aaron Michlewitz

Chair, House Committee on Ways and Means

The Honorable Rep. Claire D. Cronin

Chair, Joint Committee on the Judiciary

Re: Testimony in Support of Police Accountability -- Use of Force Standards, Qualified Immunity Reform, and Prohibitions on Face Surveillance

Dear Chairs Michlewitz and Cronin,

As a Brighton resident and a clinical social worker, I write in strong support of the many provisions in S.2820 designed to increase police accountability. In particular, our organization urges you to:

1. Adopt strict limits on police use of force,
2. End qualified immunity, because it shields police from accountability and denies victims of police violence their day in court, and
3. Prohibit government use of face surveillance technology, which threatens core civil liberties and racial justice.

I spent my clinical internship last year working with school-aged children of color, and I often worry about how, in a few short years, they may no longer be seen as children by police officers. I'm reminded just how many victims of police brutality are young people. I am deeply troubled to know that my clients of color are not truly safe in their communities due to laws that protect police when they exploit abusive practices. We've seen the tragic outcomes of this many times before - enough is enough.

George Floyd's murder by Minneapolis police brought hundreds of thousands of people into the streets all around the country to demand fundamental changes to policing and concrete steps to address systemic racism. This historic moment is not about one police killing or about one police department. Massachusetts is not immune. Indeed, Bill Barr's Department of Justice recently reported that a unit of the Springfield Police Department routinely uses brutal, excessive violence against residents of that city. We must address police violence and abuses, stop the disparate policing of and brutality against communities of color and Black people in particular, and hold police accountable for civil rights violations. These changes are essential for the health and safety of our communities here in the Commonwealth.

Massachusetts must establish strong standards limiting excessive force by police. When police interact with civilians, they should only use force when it is absolutely necessary, after attempting to de-escalate, when all other options have been exhausted. Police must use force that is proportional to the situation, and the minimum amount required to accomplish a lawful purpose. And several tactics commonly associated with death or serious injury, including the use of chokeholds, tear gas, rubber bullets, and no-knock warrants should be outlawed entirely.

Of critical and urgent importance: Massachusetts must abolish the dangerous doctrine of qualified immunity because it shields police from being held accountable to their victims. Limits on use of force are

meaningless unless they are enforceable. Yet today, qualified immunity protects police even when they blatantly and seriously violate people's civil rights, including by excessive use of force resulting in permanent injury or even death. It denies victims of police violence their day in court. Ending or reforming qualified immunity is the most important police accountability measure in S2820. Maintaining Qualified Immunity ensures that Black Lives Don't Matter. We urge you to end immunity in order to end impunity.

Finally, we urge the House to prevent the expansion of police powers and budgets by prohibiting government entities, including police, from using face surveillance technologies. Specifically, we ask that you include H.1538 in your omnibus bill. Face surveillance technologies have serious racial bias flaws built into their systems. There are increasing numbers of cases in which Black people are wrongfully arrested due to errors with these technologies (as well as sloppy police work). We should not allow police in Massachusetts to use technology that supercharges racial bias and expands police powers to surveil everyone, every day and everywhere we go.

Long-term, efforts should focus on reducing police budgets, removing police officers from schools, and funding community resources that prevent violence. I stand by my colleagues in social work and other health professions in addressing violence as a public health concern. Our field offers a rich array of evidence linking youth unemployment, economic neglect, lack of access to health and mental health services, and chronic stress with violence. It is critical that we divest from policing and incarceration - which are shown to be ineffective in addressing root causes of violence - and put our money towards what communities are actually asking for.

There is broad consensus that we must act swiftly and boldly to address police violence, strengthen accountability, and advance racial justice. We urge you to pass the strongest possible legislation without delay, and to ensure that it is signed into law this session.

Sincerely,

Adam Lang (He/Him/His)

MSW Candidate, 2021

Boston University School of Social Work

From: James Palmeri <bernchief1@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 8:43 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Subject: Concerns to 2820 as amended

Dear Chairwoman Cronin and Chairman Michlewitz,

After reading the letter drafted by my association, MA Chiefs of Police President, Chief Jeff Farnsworth and Major City Chiefs Association President, Chief Brian Kyes, I am in Full support of their (our) concerns.

Rather than overloading the same message in my words, regardless how important our concerns are, I am signing on to this letter as a Massachusetts police chief.

I have been a successful law enforcement professional since 1997, becoming a police chief in 2008. I strongly believe any changes to the qualified immunity law would be detrimental to law enforcements daily functions in keeping a decent quality of life for our communities.

Please consider our outlined concerns drafted by both chiefs mentioned above.

Thank you for your time.

Respectfully,

James Palmeri

Sent from the road via Yahoo Mail on Android, of course not while driving.
Buckle up and Drive Safe...

Chief James Palmeri
Bernardston Police Department
256 South Street, P.O. Box 194
Bernardston, Massachusetts 01337
(413) 648-9208 Station
(413) 648-0244 Fax
(413) 625-8200 24hr Dispatch
From: Thomas Brunton <tbrunton7202@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 8:43 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Subject: Bill S2820

To Whom it May Concern,

As your constituent, I write to you today to express my strong opposition to many parts of the recently passed S.2820. I hope that you will join me

in prioritizing support for the establishment of a standards and accreditation committee, which includes increased transparency and reporting, as well as strong actions focused on the promotion of diversity and restrictions on excessive force. These goals are attainable and are needed now.

I am, however, concerned at the expansion of this legislation, targeting fundamental protections such as due process and qualified immunity. This bill in its present form is troubling in many ways and will make an already dangerous and difficult job even more dangerous for the men and women in law enforcement who serve our communities every day with honor and courage. Below are just a few areas, among many others, that concern me and warrant your rejection of these components of this bill:

(1) Due Process for all police officers: Fair and equitable process under the law demands the same rights of appeal afforded to all citizens and fellow public servants. Due process should not be viewed as an arduous impediment, but favored as a bedrock principle of fundamental fairness, procedure and accountability.

(2) Qualified Immunity: Qualified Immunity does not protect problem police officers. Qualified Immunity is extended to all public employees who act reasonably and in compliance with the rules and regulations of their respective departments, not just police officers. Qualified Immunity protects all public employees, as well as their municipalities, from frivolously lawsuits. This bill removes important liability protections essential for all public servants. Removing qualified immunity protections in this way will open officers, and other public employees to personal liabilities, causing significant financial burdens. This will impede future recruitment in all public fields: police officers, teachers, nurses, fire fighters, corrections officers, etc., as they are all directly affected by qualified immunity protections.

(3) POSA Committee: The composition of the POSA Committee must include more rank-and-file police officers and experts in the law enforcement field. If you're going to regulate law enforcement, up to and including termination, you must understand law enforcement. The same way doctors oversee doctors, lawyers oversee lawyers, teachers oversee teachers, experts in law enforcement should oversee practitioners in law enforcement.

In closing, I remind you that those who protect and serve communities across Massachusetts are some of the most sophisticated and educated law enforcement officials in the nation. I again implore you to amend and correct S.2820 so as to treat the men and women in law enforcement with the respect and dignity they deserve.

Thank you,

Thomas Brunton

246 W 5th St, Apt 1, Boston, MA 02127

(413) 374-2396

From: K Williams <manwil98@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 8:43 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Subject: S.2820

Good Morning Sirs and Ma'am's- my name is Keller Williams and I am a Massachusetts State Police Trooper assigned to the Violent Fugitive Apprehension Section. I was in the Coast Guard for 10 years and an Amherst Police Officer prior to joining the State Police. I have been assigned to one of our tactical teams and have also been a Drill Instructor for 9 years spanning 6 classes where I trained over a 1,000 Troopers.

My partners and I provide a unique service to the State and local communities, we arrest the worst of the worst. Suspects wanted for murder, kidnapping, rape, child sex offenses etc. I have never felt more disenfranchised and demoralized by my elected leadership. I implore you to support us and by us I mean every law enforcement officer in the state. We need your support on putting more experienced law enforcement on the PSOA. We need your support regarding Due Process, which is a right afforded to all citizens. We need your support on Qualified Immunity, which allows us to do our job to our fullest ability and allows to feel confident we will go home at night to our families.

My family's nucleus is made up of my beautiful and loving wife Mandi and daughters Logan (21) and LiLi (18). They may have met some of you. I am a recipient of the Hanna Award. I am also the recipient of two Medal of Valors and the Medal of Lifesaving from the State Police, the Chicopee Medal of Honor and the MPA Medal of Valor. These have been the result of 3 separate shootings and saving a 5 year old girl from her mother who was trying to kill her. I'm proud of my service and wouldn't change a thing, but this environment being created around us cannot continue.

Respectfully- Trooper Keller Williams #3374
Cell#413-977-8176

Sent from my iPhoneFrom: AMY FEMINO <AMJ1178@hotmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 8:43 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Subject: NO TO POLICE REFORM BILL!

To whom it may concern:

Stripping Law Enforcement of qualified immunity takes away their protection and due process!! This state is in for some tough times if that happens. It would be safer for police and fire to do the bare minimum if this bill is passed and the public deserves more!!

Do NOT pass this bill!!!

From: David Smolski <davidjsmolski@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 8:41 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Subject: Public Testimony - Bill S.2820

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to you about the proposed bill to reform police standards. I am just an "average" citizen living in Charlton, MA. None of my family members, or close friends, work in law enforcement. I know, and have worked with, a number of police officers in my community though and am compelled to write to you.

There seem to be some reasonable points to the now revised 70+ page proposed bill, but I am alarmed for a number of reasons. I would like to explain my point of view on a handful of them.

First, it seems our state government has worked on this "under the cover of night." I cannot imagine how circumventing the legislative process with no public input, or input from police officers (or possibly the police unions) is appropriate in any way. Thankfully, it sounds like the House Ways and Means Committee and the Judiciary are soliciting public testimony now.

Requiring officers to carry their own insurance and removing qualified immunity seems like an utter disaster of an idea to me. Who in their right mind would want either to remain as a police officer, or to become a police officer in the future, if they could risk everything because someone's abbreviated video from a cell phone camera portrays an interaction with an officer in a less than perfect light?

And if / when this door is opened, what other professions will be subject to similar "standards?" How about public school teachers, our firefighters and EMS, etc.?

Who would ever want to provide a public service for a living if they could lose everything over a misunderstanding or the inability to go through due process to discover the facts about a situation vs. what much of the biased, mainstream media seems compelled to report on?

However, if that is what our government puts in place, the mainstream media must also be held responsible for the never-ending stream of misinformation that is being peddled to the public. I firmly believe they are one of the biggest dangers to Americans.

Removing school resource officers seems like another slippery slope. I've heard nothing but good things about the connections that Officer Brian Cardrant has at our regional high school, Shepherd Hill. Why would we want to remove a valuable resource who is building relationships with students? He provides support for them in ways that members of a school's administration and staff do not. He is also a positive role model who influences kids in their formative years to contribute in positive ways to society and not succumb to the many, negative peer pressures that they encounter.

To my knowledge, extrajudicial justice in the form of lynching was not conducted in Massachusetts. If that is not correct, at least the NAACP website lists Massachusetts among several states where there were no lynchings for a period of nearly 90 years. In that case, why should Massachusetts taxpayer dollars in 2020 and beyond go to fund a requirement for police officers to be trained on the history of lynching, slavery and racism in general?

Governing.com's 2013 data for safety and justice (most recent available) indicates that the Boston Police Department has a total minority share of 34.5% with 507 black officers. Would minority officers, including those

who are black, be required to complete this training? If that is the case, will every public servant, including our elected representatives at all levels of town, city and state government, our educators and administration, those who represent these groups (unions), etc., also be required to complete this training? If not, why not? After all, they are directly involved with public policy and interactions with the general public of all ages, gender, backgrounds, beliefs and ethnicities.

There is plenty more in the 70+ page document, but I don't intend to write you a 70+ page e-mail outlining my concerns.

I am neither a registered Republican, nor a Democrat, but I implore you to craft a police reform bill that doesn't likely put the lives of our officers, their families, and our citizens, in grave danger.

In closing, I believe...

- * That there is a thin, blue line that separates chaos from order
- * It doesn't need to be a thick blue line
- * Some people want to eliminate or erase that line all together, which would be disastrous
- * There are good and bad people in every walk of life and profession, including the ranks of law enforcement and public service of all kinds (including police, security, military, government, etc.)
- * We are on the brink of a national disaster if dangerous bills like S.2800, or S.2820, are allowed to pass without opposition or common sense amendments
- * This shouldn't be about hasteful expediency because the Governor wants something on his desk by July 31st
- * It should absolutely be about doing the right thing, for the right reasons
- * Meaningful reform shouldn't include a bunch of bundled trade-offs encompassing "everything and the kitchen sink," just to appease representatives in our two party system; it shouldn't be about political agendas - it should be about the people
- * And now, more than ever, we need the logical and pragmatic voices of our state representatives and officials to be heard on behalf of people who can clearly see what will jeopardize our future

Thank you for this opportunity to express my perspective. I hope you will truly consider what the public has to say about this critical matter.

Sincerely,

David Smolski

Charlton, MA

From: Rachel Isaacson <raisaacson4@gmail.com>

Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 8:41 AM

To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)

Subject: Please advocate for Expungement in Massachusetts in house bill focused on racial justice

Dear MA Judiciary,

My name is Rachel Isaacson and I live in Cambridge, MA. I am reaching out about the effort to expand the existing youth expungement law so that it is more accessible to young people in Massachusetts. As a public health professional, I want our state to commit to upstream solutions, such as financial investments in communities, housing first, and a robust social safety net, which all contribute to safer communities. I want to live in a society that prioritizes growth, not punishment.

Let's amend the expungement law applying our understanding of young adult recidivism rates (young adults have a 76% recidivism rate over three years), cognitive brain development (people are more risk averse before their mid-twenties), and the seven year expiration of a criminal record's effectiveness as a tool for public safety.

The current law is very exclusive and most young people cannot qualify. It doesn't even distinguish between a conviction versus a dismissed case. Race plays a central role in the problem with criminal records. Black youth are three times more likely to be arrested than their white peers. Black individuals are six times more likely to go to jail than whites despite being just 7.5% of the population. People of color are over-represented at every stage of the legal system and expungement will go a long way to undo the harm from this systemic racism. Criminal records stay with people forever and prevent many from getting good jobs and education which puts an unnecessary strain on our economy. Records also have a very negative impact on mental health and they particularly hurt communities of color.

We respectfully ask for an amendment that will:

- * Allow for multiple offenses to be expunged (prior to age 21).
- * Remove the list of 150+ charges that automatically disqualify and let the judge decide. Charges don't reflect the reality of an individual's character, guilt, likelihood of future risk, or ability to contribute to society in a positive way. Instead we should allow for judicial discretion. Since the 7 year felony and 3 year misdemeanor wait periods only begin at the end of one's sentence, the most severe charges like murder and aggravated rape which come with life sentences will never be eligible.
- * Differentiate between convictions and dismissed cases. Not all charges are equal.

I know that the Legislature is planning to pass legislation to address police accountability and racial justice and I would really appreciate your support to make sure an expansion to the expungement law is included. As your constituent, I would appreciate your leadership on this issue.

Thank you for your consideration! This issue is very important to me, the young people in our community, and the entire Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Sincerely,

Rachel Isaacson, MPH
From: Natalie Smith <nataliejsmith62@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 8:41 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Subject: Police bill

As voting citizen in the state of Massachusetts, I feel that the police bill should be voted on by the citizens not the representatives. It is time to give the voting population the power of major decisions and how those decisions affect the people of the state. Give the people the power to decide what they want. I, myself, think this political atmosphere has to change and it will only change if you give back the power to the people not the few politicians at the State House. Do not pass this police bill!

Sent from my iPhone
From: Katherine Kelliher <katherine.a.kelliher@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 8:41 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Subject: Include an end to qualified immunity

Good morning,

I'm writing today regarding policing reform, specifically in conjunction with the Senate's passing of S.2820. I urge the you to specifically include an end to qualified immunity in all possible outcomes put forward and, more generally, put police accountability in the forefront.

Sincerely,
Katherine Kelliher
12 Hamden district
Springfield, MA

From: Aideen Jenkins <aideenjenkins@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 8:40 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Subject: Raise the age limit - PLEASE

I have been a foster parent to a young woman who came into our family at age 16. She is now 22 and, while she has not had any crime or drug problems, her emotional and maturity development are clearly delayed. I ascribe this to early trauma. Fostering this teen into early adulthood has provided me a lens into the struggles other kids face. Layering race into the equation makes this bill more urgent. I believe reform is possible, and likely with proper intervention and continued emotional support. Sending youth into adult prisons derails chances for positive change.
Sincerely,
Aideen Jenkins

Aideen Jenkins
781-956-6663
From: Walch, Kimberly <WalchK@sudbury.ma.us>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 8:41 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Subject: SB2820

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.

You are being inundated with email communication from leaders within the police workforce asking the house to work in partnership with us law enforcement officers and take the necessary time to write this bill in the best interest of every US resident/citizen. I love my job and worked unbelievably hard to attain the position of School Resource Officer. I

think you are making a horrible mistake by enacting this bill so quickly with such drastic changes to our justice system. Our society needs law and order. It pains my body to walk around carrying 35lbs worth of gear around, but I do this to protect our residents and my own life so I may return home safe to my family at the end of the day.

Please listen to our Police Leaders, we are the best in the nation. Let their experience help you mold the appropriate changes to police training. Please please do not let tyrants burn, destroy and vandalize our beautiful state. My friends, family and co-workers need you more than ever.

Kim

Officer Kimberly A. Walch

School Resource Officer

Sudbury Police Department

75 Hudson Road

Sudbury, MA 01776

978-443-1042 or 978-443-5651

From: Mark Thomas <markthomas803@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 8:40 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Subject: Bill S.2820

As your constituent, I write to you today to express my strong opposition to many parts of the recently passed S.2820. I hope that you will join me in prioritizing support for the establishment of a standards and accreditation committee, which includes increased transparency and reporting, as well as strong actions focused on the promotion of diversity and restrictions on excessive force. These goals are attainable and are needed now.

I am, however, concerned at the expansion of this legislation, targeting fundamental protections such as due process and qualified immunity. This bill in its present form is troubling in many ways and will make an already dangerous and difficult job even more dangerous for the men and women in law enforcement who serve our communities every day with honor and courage. Below are just a few areas, among many others, that concern me and warrant your rejection of these components of this bill:

(1) Due Process for all police officers: Fair and equitable process under the law demands the same rights of appeal afforded to all citizens and fellow public servants. Due process should not be viewed as an arduous impediment, but favored as a bedrock principle of fundamental fairness, procedure and accountability.

(2) Qualified Immunity: Qualified Immunity does not protect problem police officers. Qualified Immunity is extended to all public employees who act reasonably and in compliance with the rules and regulations of their respective departments, not just police officers. Qualified Immunity protects all public employees, as well as their municipalities, from frivolously lawsuits. This bill removes important liability protections essential for all public servants. Removing qualified immunity protections in this way will open officers, and other public employees to personal liabilities, causing significant financial burdens. This will impede future recruitment in all public fields: police officers, teachers, nurses, fire fighters, corrections officers, etc., as they are all directly affected by qualified immunity protections.

(3) POSA Committee: The composition of the POSA Committee must include more rank-and-file police officers and experts in the law enforcement field. If you're going to regulate law enforcement, up to and including termination, you must understand law enforcement. The same way doctors oversee doctors, lawyers oversee lawyers, teachers oversee teachers, experts in law enforcement should oversee practitioners in law enforcement.

In closing, I remind you that those who protect and serve communities across Massachusetts are some of the most sophisticated and educated law enforcement officials in the nation. I again implore you to amend and correct S.2820 so as to treat the men and women in law enforcement with the respect and dignity they deserve.

Thank you,

Mark E Thomas

65 Jordan St.

Haverhill, MA 01830

Markthomas803@gmail.com

From: christine lyons <chrissylyons79@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 8:40 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Subject: Opposition of bill S2820

To Whom It May Concern:

I am in opposition of bill S2820 - a bill regarding police reform. The way the bill is written is unacceptable. Anyone who moves forward to pass the bill, will not have my vote.

I support Massachusetts law enforcement officers and this bill does not support them.

The problem in this world is not police violence, it is fear which is displayed as racism. Passing some obscure bill at 4 AM is sneaky and is written in such a way that, instead of enhancing public safety, it will destroy it.

Sincerely,
Christine F. Lyons
Citizen of Norton, MA
Sister of a Norwood police officer
Registered nurse at BIDMC

I stand with law enforcement officers

Sent from my iPhoneFrom: Bob McCorkle <mccorkle49@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 8:40 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Subject: urgent request for action

To:
Representative Aaron Michlewitz, Chairperson, House Committee on Ways and Means

Representative Claire Cronin, Chairperson, Joint Committee on the Judiciary

Hello, my name is Robert McCorkle with the Greater Boston Interfaith Organization (GBIO). I live at 39 Clark Rd., Brookline. I am writing to urge you and the House to pass police reform that includes:

- * Implement Peace Officer Standards & Training with certification
- * Civil service access reform
- * Commission on structural racism
- * Clear statutory limits on police use of force
- * Qualified immunity reform

Thank you very much.

Robert McCorkle

mccorkle49@yahoo.com

(617) 699-1618

39 Clark Rd., Brookline

From: Eric R. Gagnon <gagnon.er@gmail.com>

Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 8:40 AM

To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)

Subject: Bill S.2820 testimony

Good morning,

I am strongly opposed to bill S.2820. This bill ties the hands of our police officers and creates a dangerous situation for our communities and our police. I would also like to point out that we have not had any problems with policing in this state and have been congratulated for our great practices and the professionalism of our police. An incident that took place 1,200 miles away should not dictate what we do here, as it does not in any other situation. This is an obvious political move and disgraceful.

* Altogether banning any type of force is dangerous as the public can use any type of force against those who protect us. If a police officer is fighting for his life, you are saying he/she is not able to save his/her life if a chokehold is his/her only option. Yet, a person can use a chokehold to kill a police officer. Chokeholds are already limited to lethal force. Limiting force in certain situations is more logical than outright banning it.

* Creating a certification process without the opportunity or due process is a dangerous road to go down with all of the frivolous complaints that are made against police officers just due to the nature of their job. The argument keeps coming up that most other states have a certification process. Well, most other states do not have the level of training our police officers have and that is why Massachusetts won't accept other state's certifications already. Again, other states with certification have had the problems where Massachusetts has not.

* Qualified immunity is what allows a police officer to do their job. I will leave you with a few scenarios

* One of your loved ones drops from a heart attack. There is no pulse when the police arrive, they immediately start CPR. During CPR, trying to save your loved ones life, they break a rib (very common with CPR), As it stands now, police are covered by qualified immunity because they were acting upon their training, in good faith, and trying to save a life. Without qualified immunity, the Supreme Court has ruled that a police officer would be more protected to NOT try and save a life then try and help. Without qualified immunity, that officer could be sued for breaking that rib while trying to save a life.

* You and your family members are involved in a horrific car accident, a police officer activated his blue lights and siren and follows his training and legal authority to get to the scene as quickly and safely as possible to save your child's life as you look on helpless stuck in the car. On the way, the officer is involved in an accident themselves rushing to try and help your family. Without qualified immunity, this officer can now be personally sued by the other party involved in the accident even though they were acting in good faith and within the boundaries of the law and their training. Do you think that officer is going to get there so quick next time to try and save your family when seconds count?

* Domestic violence may take a turn for the worse with officers afraid to arrest and be sued.

* A person calls because a dog is in distress in a hot car. Before, the officer would break the window to save the dog. Without qualified immunity, that officer could be sued for breaking that window and therefore may not feel comfortable doing so. According to the Supreme Court, officers are not required to act.

* There are a million scenarios that are running through my head. Think of any situation that an officer responds to and there is the possibility to be sued without qualified immunity for simply doing their job. Without qualified immunity, officers will either hesitate to act or not act at all.

* Some things you could do to help:

* Stop pulling training funding for police.

* Bring back the Quinn Bill to bring in higher educated police officers who are proved to use less force.

* Fund body cameras to hold everyone accountable. I have a feeling this one is not in there because you do not want proof that goes against your party line. You don't want to see what police officers really deal with on a daily basis.

* Stop taking away non-lethal force options so you only leave a police officer with a lethal force option.

There is no need to villainize the men and women of the Commonwealth who lay their lives on the line every day or you. I know some of you use even them on a regular basis for your own protection at home or at the office. Policing is a noble profession and should be treated as such as nothing has happened with Massachusetts trained police officers to make you think otherwise. Passing this bill and changing policing under the guise of national rhetoric is dangerous and irresponsible. Please use some common sense, read actual facts and studies (not the media) and think about the citizens in the state, and the children who have to grow up in this state, who need police services on a daily basis rather than your political party line. Most of all, do not make knee jerk decisions without the proper time to research and be sure a safe and effective bill is being passed.

Thank you for your time.

Eric Gagnon

Beverly, MA

From: whitey4634 <whitey4634@gmail.com>

Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 8:40 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Subject: Municipal Counsel Opinion on Qualified Immunity Impacts

As a career professional firefighter for over 20 years, I am vehemently opposed to the proposed law change. Unless you have worked a day in our shoes, you will never understand the risks we take on a daily basis. To be hung out to dry and not backed by our local politicians is unacceptable and I consider it an absolute betrayal. I urge you to vote no on the proposed bill.

Respectfully submitted,

FF James White
Whitey4634@gmail.com
978-767-0997

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

From: Eileen & Tom <tomeileen@comcast.net>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 8:40 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Subject: Support for S2820

Hello Chair Michlewitz and Chair Cronin:

I grew up in Ireland during the 70's and 80's. The police officers, Gardaí, did not carry guns. Rubber bullets, tear gas and attack dogs were only used by the British Army in the north. Moving to the US and seeing armed police officers was very jarring. As a naturalized citizen, I have seen the police force become increasingly militarized over the 20+ years I've lived here. During my commute, I have noticed more, and more, people of color being pulled over. I have come to question if they are safe from the police officers.

As a result, I am writing in support of S2820 currently being considered by the Massachusetts House of Representatives. This bill is a crucial part of reforming our police departments and addressing systemic racism within our society.

In particular I support the restrictions on obtaining military grade property, the banning of choke holds, and the restrictions on the use of chemical weapons, rubber bullets and dogs. The emphasis on training and de-escalation tactics is an absolutely necessary part of law enforcement reform.

In addition, I support the change in the requirement for school resource officers only at the request of school superintendents. There have been too many stories from students, particularly students of color, of the racism they have encountered or observed from SROs. Studies are clear that

the criminalization of matters that should be handled by schools are hugely detrimental to students both during their time in school and afterward.

I know there has been a tremendous amount of resistance from the law enforcement community regarding this bill, particularly with respect to the modification of qualified immunity. In my opinion the changes made by the bill are reasonable and will help to hold police officers accountable for their actions.

Thank you for taking the time to read this and consideration in passing the bill.

Eileen Kelly
75 Leanne Drive,
North Andover,
MA 01845

Sent from my iPhone
From: Judith Leemann <judithleemann@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 8:40 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Subject: pass SB.2800 in its entirety

Dear Chairman Aaron Michlewitz & Co-chair Rep. Claire Cronin:

My name is Judith Leemann I am a resident of Boston, MA. I am writing this virtual testimony to urge you to pass SB.2800 the Reform, Shift, Build Act in its entirety. It is the minimum and the bill must leave the legislature in its entirety.

As the white mother of a Black son I have experienced a profound shift in understanding over the last decade of parenting him as to how policing is enacted on different communities and constituencies. It has been a painful process of having my sight become clear. From where I stand now, and in solidarity with the powerful voices lifting in this moment, I ask that you pass SB.2800 as the MINIMUM reform and as a beginning of much greater additional reform.

This bill bans chokeholds, promotes de-escalation tactics, certifies police officers, prohibits the use of facial recognition, limits qualified immunity for police, and redirects money from policing to community investment.

I urge you to ensure that all aspects of this bill are intact. We are in a historical moment and this bill ensures that we in Massachusetts meet the demand of this movement.

Thank you for your consideration of your request to give SB.2800 a favorable report.

Sincerely,

Judith Leemann

27 Kingsboro Park #2

Jamaica Plain, MA 02130

--

www.judithleemann.com <https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=http-3A__www.judithleemann.com&d=DwMFaQ&c=1DF7oMaPKXpkYvev9V-fVahWL0QWnGCCAfCDz1Bns_w&r=uoevGInjCfTlguYncQubxpi5R6db_gq1YmKr0SCk2EnIiuk13zIs16rchf_GkGDD&m=iAzZA_piq_W3Z6PBJEuPCjB0-yOEAGjh_5AfLbPoaC4&s=xtVhJTBZ7dR8Xy-bAcUmZfSDJCvZIFzWLzvZroTjVOw&e=>>

From: Claudia Cellucci <cscellucci@me.com>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 8:40 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Subject: Reject Senate Policing bill SB 2820

Dear Members of the Massachusetts House of Representatives:

I am writing to ask you to reject the Policing Bill, SB 2820. It endangers public safety, removes important protections for police, and creates a commission to study and make recommendations regarding policing with a lopsided membership.

Section 49 alters our education laws to prohibit school officials from reporting immigration or citizenship status to any law enforcement authority or GANG MEMBERSHIP.

To think that school authorities would be prohibited from telling the police that a student might be a member of MS-13 or any other dangerous gang is extremely dangerous. Section 49 should be eliminated.

SB 2820 endangers our police by dramatically watering down "qualified immunity" in Section 10. This provision should be eliminated.

Section 52 should also be eliminated as it hinders an officer's ability to protect our roadways as well as him- or herself by not allowing them to ask someone who they have stopped about their immigration or citizenship status.

Section 63 creates a fifteen-member commission to make recommendations on policing. But, only 3 of the 15 are associated with policing. It should have more equal representation of law enforcement officers.

I oppose SB 2820, and at a minimum, it should specifically eliminate any provisions similar to sections 10, 49, 52, and amend Section 63 to have more police representation.

Sincerely,

Claudia Cellucci
Marshfield

Sent from my iPadFrom: Jason Haas <jason.m.haas@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 8:39 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Subject: S.2820

Dear Chair Michlewitz, Chair Cronin, and members of the House Ways & Means and Judiciary Committees,

I'm writing in favor of S.2820, to bring badly needed reform to our criminal justice system. I urge you to work as swiftly as possible to pass this bill into law and strengthen it.

I believe the final bill should eliminate qualified immunity (a loophole which prevents holding police accountable), introduce strong standards for decertifying problem officers, and completely ban tear gas, chokeholds, and no knock raids like the one that killed Breonna Taylor.

With thanks for your attention,

Jason Haas & Jessica Nargiso
Medford, MAFrom: Rosanne Lyons <jrl155@aol.com>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 8:39 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Subject: Reject Senate Policing bill SB 2820

Dear Members of the Massachusetts House of Representatives: I am writing to ask you to reject the Policing Bill, SB 2820. It endangers public safety, removes important protections for police, and creates a commission to study and make recommendations regarding policing with a lopsided membership. Section 49 alters our education laws to prohibit school officials from reporting immigration or citizenship status to any law enforcement authority or GANG MEMBERSHIP. To think that school authorities would be prohibited from telling the police that a student might be a member of MS-13 or any other dangerous gang is extremely dangerous. Section 49 should be eliminated. SB 2820 endangers our police by dramatically watering down "qualified immunity" in Section 10. This provision should be eliminated. Section 52 should also be eliminated as it hinders an officer's ability to protect our roadways as well as him- or herself by not allowing them to ask someone who they have stopped about their immigration or citizenship status. Section 63 creates a fifteen-member commission to make recommendations on policing. But, only 3 of the 15 are associated with policing. It should have more equal representation

of law enforcement officers. I oppose SB 2820, and at a minimum, it should specifically eliminate any provisions similar to sections 10, 49, 52, and amend Section 63 to have more police representation. Sincerely,

From: cgbatson@yahoo.com

Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 8:39 AM

To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)

Cc: Tyler, Chynah - Rep. (HOU)

Subject: In Favor of S.2820

Dear Chair Michlewitz, Chair Cronin, and members of the House Ways & Means and Judiciary Committees,

I'm writing in favor of S.2820, to bring badly needed reform to our criminal justice system. I urge you to work as swiftly as possible to pass this bill into law and strengthen it.

I believe the final bill should eliminate qualified immunity (a loophole which prevents holding police accountable), introduce strong standards for decertifying problem officers, and completely ban tear gas, chokeholds, and no knock raids like the one that killed Breonna Taylor.

As a cis, white male I still feel responsible for how our city treats every resident. The police should not be above the law. They should treat everyone with the same respect I receive. There is a double-standard at play and we can do better. I encourage you to strongly consider what is right for us as individuals and collectively as a state. Let us stand by our democratic and liberal morals and show the rest of the nation that a demilitarized police force is possible, while maintaining, if not improving, public peace.

Sincerely,

Christopher Batson

20 Highland Avenue

Unit 2

Boston, MA 02119

From: Ainsley Cray <ainsleymcray@gmail.com>

Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 8:39 AM

To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Subject: Testimony re S.2820

Dear Rep. Cronin and Rep Michlewitz:

I am writing to express support for S.2820, the Senate's police reform bill. I urge the House to enact a similar bill as soon as possible, and get it through a conference committee and signed by Governor Baker by the end of July. I particularly support the Senate bill's approach to the creation of a state-wide certification board and state-wide training standards, limits on use of force, the duty to intervene if an officer witnesses misconduct by another officer, banning racial profiling and mandating the collection of racial data for police stops, civilian approval required for the purchase of military equipment, the prohibition of nondisclosure agreements in police misconduct cases, and allowing the Governor to select a colonel from outside the state police force, as well as all of the provisions requested by the Black and Latino Legislative Caucus.

I also support the Senate bill's small modifications to qualified immunity for police officers. Under this bill, police officers would continue to have qualified immunity if they act in a reasonable way, and they would continue to be financially indemnified by the tax-payers in their municipalities. Police officers should not, however, be immune to prosecution if they engage in egregious misconduct, even if case law has not previously established that this particular form of misconduct is egregious. Most importantly, I hope a good police reform bill will be enacted by the end of July. Thank you for giving attention to this important priority, along with all the other important issues the House is addressing.

Regards,

Ainsley Cray
715-493-0487
Medford, MA
From: Chris Santley <santley07@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 8:38 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Cc: Frost, Paul - Rep. (HOU)
Subject: Police Reform Bill

To All,

I am writing in my concerns regarding the police reform bill. I feel this bill is anti labor legislation and will drastically change the way law enforcement conducts business as it has for so many years. This bill removes the rights of due process, a concept I cannot make any sense of. I am opposed to removing collective bargaining and inserting a board that has no experience or background in law enforcement. It is absurd to have impactful career decisions made by someone with no knowledge of how law is applied and how law enforcement operates.

I am requesting all involved to stop the rush to pass this bill and take the time to make it right for law enforcement and the public as it will have a huge, negative impact on both.

Thank you,
Christopher Santley
Worcester Police Officer
8 Dale Ave
Auburn, Ma 01501
774-253-6718
From: Pat and Amanda Winslow <winslowfamily17@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 8:38 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Subject: Testimony for S2820

To The Chair of the House Committee on Ways and Means, Rep. Aaron Michlewitz, in cooperation with Rep. Claire Cronin, Chair of the Joint Committee on the Judiciary,

It has come to my attention that the bill titled S2820 is under review and as it has been presented to you, I stand opposed to it.

The senate version of this bill as written will seriously undermine public safety by limiting police officer's ability to do their jobs while simultaneously allowing provisions to protect criminals. Furthermore, the process employed by the Senate to push this through with such haste, without public hearing or input of any kind, was extremely undemocratic and nontransparent.

Police across the commonwealth support uniform training standards and policies and have been requesting more training for years. My strong, smart, dedicated husband is one of those officers.

The Senate version of a regulatory board is unacceptable as it strips officers of the due process rights and does away with protections currently set forth in collective bargaining agreements and civil service law. The Senate created a board that is dominated by anti-police groups who have a long-detailed record of biases against law enforcement and preconceived punitive motives toward police. I will not support any bill that does not include the same procedural justice safeguards members of the communities we serve demand and enjoy.

What the Senate has tried to do is pass a knee jerk reaction to an incident which occurred half a country away that everyone agrees was egregious, the Fraternal Order of Police nationally and in this state had quickly condemned it.

Massachusetts police officers are among highest educated and trained in the country. My husband has spent countless hours on and off the clock continuing his training. These training are not limited to the use of lethal weapons- but there are numerous trainings for less lethal and deescalation tactics, as well as ethics and community building.

This bill directly attacks qualified immunity and due process. Qualified immunity does not protect bad officers. It protects good officers from civil lawsuits. We should want our officers to be able to act to protect our communities without fear of being sued at every turn, otherwise why would they put themselves at risk? A large majority of law enforcement officers do the right thing and are good officers, yet there is a real push to end qualified immunity to open good officers up to frivolous lawsuits because of the actions of a few who, by their own actions, would not be covered by qualified immunity anyway. It just doesn't make any sense why we are endangering the livelihood of many for the actions of a few.

Changes to qualified immunity would be unnecessary if the legislature adopted a uniform statewide standard and bans unlawful use of force techniques which all police personnel unequivocally support.

If the senate bill is passed in its current form the costs to municipalities and the State will skyrocket from frivolous lawsuits and potentially having a devastating impact on budgets statewide.

If the senate bill is passed, the future of this state, and this country as we know will be greatly impacted. Our officers cannot in good faith stand risk to lose their houses, their families, and their livelihood because someone got angry about a traffic ticket that was thrown out, and now seeks retribution. Our officers choose to be in this field because they WANT to HELP the community. Passing this bill as it stands may lead to a mass exodus of the GOOD officers. My husband has spent over a decade of his life dedicated to to his department and the community he serves. Our family stands in solidarity with our family in blue. Please don't let this bill pass and let our families pay the price for a knee jerk reaction.

Sincerely,
Amanda Winslow
51 Libby St.
Ludlow, MA 01056
9787932641

Reference:

Bill No. S2820

Title: 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

From: jennifer kreiter <jenkreiter@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 8:38 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Subject: SN.2800

Dear Friends,

This week, the Massachusetts State Senate was able to pass SB.2800 <https://malegislature.gov/Bills/191/S2800/Amendments> --Reform, Shift, Build Act--on police reform. It bans chokeholds, promotes de-escalation tactics, certifies police officers, prohibits Testimony.HWMJudiciary@mahouse.gov <mailto:Testimony.HWMJudiciary@mahouse.gov> . After Friday, the Legislature will have two weeks to finalize a policing reform bill that Gov. Charlie Baker can sign before the end of formal sessions on July 31.

In solidarity,

Email Address: Testimony.HWMJudiciary@mahouse.gov
<mailto:Testimony.HWMJudiciary@mahouse.gov>

Email Title: Pass SB.2800, Reform, Shift, Build Act

Dear Chairman Aaron Michlewitz & Co-chair Rep. Claire Cronin:

My name is Jennifer Kreiter. I am a

Resident of Bedford MA and a member of March like a Mother: for Black Lives. I am writing this virtual testimony to urge you to pass SB.2800 the Reform, Shift, Build Act in its entirety. It is the minimum and the bill must leave the legislature in its entirety.

Paragraph 2:I believe that the police should be held accountable and we the people should not have to fear them. I look forward to a day where police are thought of as our protectors and community friends

This bill bans chokeholds, promotes de-escalation tactics, certifies police officers, prohibits the use of facial recognition, limits qualified immunity for police, and redirects money from policing to community investment.

I urge you to ensure that all aspects of this bill are intact. We are in a historical moment and this bill ensures that we in Massachusetts meet the demand of this movement.

Thank you for your consideration of your request to give SB.2800 a favorable report.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Kreiter

8 Sheridan Rd, Bedford, MA 01730

March like a Mother: for Black Lives

From: Janice <janicedehart1@comcast.net>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 8:38 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Subject: S2820

Good day, I strongly oppose the proposed changes taking away qualified immunity.

While I support the need to punish public servants who deliberately harm individuals, or those who stand by and don't intervene, my concern is the extent to which this will be implemented.

As a former RN and mother of a firefighter/EMT who is currently becoming a paramedic, I am concerned that any public servant could be held liable for inadvertent negative outcomes during the performance of their duties. This will negatively affect the performance of duty, making public servants more cautious about aggressively performing their duties when necessary.

Please do not throw the baby out with the bath water! While the intention is good to punish "the bad cops", please do not hamper the rest of your public servants, and the community, by taking away qualified immunity.

Yours truly,
Janice DeHart
108 Wakefield Street
Reading, MA

Sent from my iPhone
From: Cheryl O'Connell Riddle <oconnellcheryl@hotmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 8:38 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Subject: Testimony Re: Bill S.2880

As your constituent, I write to you today to express my strong opposition to many parts of the recently passed S.2820. I hope that you will join me in prioritizing support for the establishment of a standards and accreditation committee, which includes increased transparency and reporting, as well as strong actions focused on the promotion of diversity and restrictions on excessive force. These goals are attainable and are needed now.

I am, however, concerned at the expansion of this legislation, targeting fundamental protections such as due process and qualified immunity. This bill in its present form is troubling in many ways and will make an already dangerous and difficult job even more dangerous for the men and women in law enforcement who serve our communities every day with honor and courage. Below are just a few areas, among many others, that concern me and warrant your rejection of these components of this bill:

(1)?Due Process for all police officers: Fair and equitable process under the law demands the same rights of appeal afforded to all citizens and fellow public servants. Due process should not be viewed as an arduous impediment, but favored as a bedrock principle of fundamental fairness, procedure and accountability.

(2)?Qualified Immunity: Qualified Immunity does not protect problem police officers. Qualified Immunity is extended to all public employees who act reasonably and in compliance with the rules and regulations of their respective departments, not just police officers. Qualified Immunity protects all public employees, as well as their municipalities, from frivolously lawsuits. This bill removes important liability protections essential for all public servants. Removing qualified immunity protections in this way will open officers, and other public employees to personal liabilities, causing significant financial burdens. This will impede future recruitment in all public fields: police officers, teachers, nurses, fire fighters, corrections officers, etc., as they are all directly affected by qualified immunity protections.

(3)?POSA Committee: The composition of the POSA Committee must include more rank-and-file police officers and experts in the law enforcement field. If you're going to regulate law enforcement, up to and including termination, you must understand law enforcement. The same way doctors oversee doctors, lawyers oversee lawyers, teachers oversee teachers, experts in law enforcement should oversee practitioners in law enforcement.

In closing, I remind you that those who protect and serve communities across Massachusetts are some of the most sophisticated and educated law enforcement officials in the nation. I again implore you to amend and correct S.2820 so as to treat the men and women in law enforcement with the respect and dignity they deserve.

Cheryl O'Connell Riddle
12 Iris Court
Lunenburg, MA 01462
Oconnellcheryl@hotmail.com

Get Outlook for iOS <https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__aka.ms_o0ukef&d=DwMGaQ&c=1DF7oMaPKXpkYvev9V-fVahWL0QWnGCCAfCDz1Bns_w&r=uoevGIInjCfTlguYncQubxpi5R6db_gq1YmKr0SCk2EnIiuk13zIsl6rchf_GkGDD&m=LL3ukF6nNVL_jzHFwyY14EFZvlnjuZzWmSDYK7vS3Dw&s=ndJFp0XFauqthZ7WUcmhzN0nNKYIL9qEnLsldA4Pnw8&e=>>
From: Shelley Austin <shellduc@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 8:37 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Subject: Reject Senate Policing bill SB 2820

Dear Members of the Massachusetts House of Representatives:

I am writing to ask you to reject the Policing Bill, SB 2820. It endangers public safety, removes important protections for police, and creates a commission to study and make recommendations regarding policing

with a lopsided membership. Section 49 alters our education laws to prohibit school officials from reporting immigration or citizenship status to any law enforcement authority or GANG MEMBERSHIP. To think that school authorities would be prohibited from telling the police that a student might be a member of MS-13 or any other dangerous gang is extremely dangerous. Section 49 should be eliminated. SB 2820 endangers our police by dramatically watering down "qualified immunity" in Section 10. This provision should be eliminated. Section 52 should also be eliminated as it hinders an officer's ability to protect our roadways as well as him- or herself by not allowing them to ask someone who they have stopped about their immigration or citizenship status. Section 63 creates a fifteen-member commission to make recommendations on policing. But, only 3 of the 15 are associated with policing. It should have more equal representation of law enforcement officers. I oppose SB 2820, and at a minimum, it should specifically eliminate any provisions similar to sections 10, 49, 52, and amend Section 63 to have more police representation.

Sincerely,

Shelley Austin
Concerned citizen
From: My Email <clewicki17@comcast.net>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 6:43 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Subject: Please review

Dear Senators,

I am imploring you to review every aspect of this law. We DO NOT want to become NYC. We have wonderful police in the State of Massachusetts that deserve respect and have proved who they are. Do you remember the Boston bombing? I certainly do. I know many police officers who are feeling like they've been sucker punched by their Government. Please don't become "that" state. Many people will pick up and leave I know I will consider leaving. It's not the place I'd want to raise a family or see my grandchildren grow. Criminals do not matter more than police.

Again please reconsider more training and do not let this horrible bill go through as it's written.

Sincerely
Cynthia Lewicki
17 High St
Plainville MA. 02762
Sent from my iPhone
From: David Bamford <dbamford70@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 8:37 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Cc: Howitt, Steven - Rep. (HOU)
Subject: S.2820

Good morning. I am writing as a private citizen. I currently reside in Norton, MA. I would like to comment on Bill S.2820 before the House.

The proposed makeup of the oversight board is one sided and biased against law enforcement. It is unlike any of the 160 other regulatory boards across the Commonwealth and as constructed incapable if being fair and impartial.

What the Senate has tried to do is pass a knee jerk reaction to an incident which occurred half a country away that everyone agrees was egregious, police nationally and in this state quickly condemned it.

Massachusetts police officers are among highest educated and trained in the country.

This bill directly attacks qualified immunity and due process. Qualified immunity does not protect bad officers. It protects good officers from civil lawsuits. We should want our officers to be able to act to protect our communities without fear of being sued at every turn, otherwise why would they put themselves at risk? A large majority of law enforcement officers do the right thing and are good officers, yet there is a real push to end qualified immunity to open good officers up to frivolous lawsuits because of the actions of a few who, by their own actions, would not be covered by qualified immunity anyway. It just doesn't make any sense why we are endangering the livelihood of many for the actions of a few.

Changes to qualified immunity would be unnecessary if the legislature adopted a uniform statewide standard and bans unlawful use of force techniques which all police personnel unequivocally support.

If the senate bill is passed in its current form the costs to municipalities and the State will skyrocket from frivolous lawsuits and potentially having a devastating impact on budgets statewide.

The issues facing our state are significant. They are too important to hastily pass a bill and so that elected officials can say that they checked the box and fixed racism.

Many of the issues truly are systemic and it is unfair to target the police, just one part of a system that has failed minorities for centuries.

I respectfully ask that you reject this bill and initiate a thorough and proper review of the matter.

Respectfully,

David W. Bamford
24 East Hodges Street

Norton, MA
508 285-9972

From: Meryl Finkel <meryl@finkelfeldman.com>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 8:37 AM

To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Subject: Strong police reform needed now!

To: Representative Aaron Michlewitz, Chairperson, House Committee on Ways and Means

Representative Claire Cronin, Chairperson, Joint Committee on the Judiciary

Hello, my name is Meryl Finkel with the Greater Boston Interfaith Organization (GBIO). I live at 6 Peck Ave in Arlington. I am writing to urge you and the House to pass police reform that includes:

- * Implement Peace Officer Standards & Training with certification
- * Civil service access reform
- * Commission on structural racism
- * Clear statutory limits on police use of force
- * Qualified immunity reform

Thank you very much.

Meryl Finkel

Meryl@finkelfeldman.com

781 249 7658

6 Peck Ave.

Arlington, MA 02476

From: Cesare Del Vaglio <cesared@aol.com>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 8:37 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Subject: Reject Senate Policing bill SB 2820

Dear Members of the Massachusetts House of Representatives:

I am writing to ask you to reject the Policing Bill, SB 2820. It endangers public safety, removes important protections for police, and creates a commission to study and make recommendations regarding policing with a lopsided membership.

Section 49 alters our education laws to prohibit school officials from reporting immigration or citizenship status to any law enforcement authority or GANG MEMBERSHIP.

To think that school authorities would be prohibited from telling the police that a student might be a member of MS-13 or any other dangerous gang is extremely dangerous. Section 49 should be eliminated.

SB 2820 endangers our police by dramatically watering down "qualified immunity" in Section 10. This provision should be eliminated.

Section 52 should also be eliminated as it hinders an officer's ability to protect our roadways as well as him- or herself by not allowing them to ask someone who they have stopped about their immigration or citizenship status.

Section 63 creates a fifteen-member commission to make recommendations on policing. But, only 3 of the 15 are associated with policing. It should have more equal representation of law enforcement officers.

I oppose SB 2820, and at a minimum, it should specifically eliminate any provisions similar to sections 10, 49, 52, and amend Section 63 to have more police representation.

Sincerely,

Cesare J. 'Skip' Del Vaglio
Master Beekeeper

Sent from my iPhone
From: Mia Bink <mcbink85@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 8:35 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Subject: Support for police bill

Good morning!!

Just voicing my support for the police bill on the floor today! Vote yes!

Thanks!!!
M Scotto

Sent from my iPhone
From: a v <av_mv_jv@hotmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 8:35 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Subject: S2800

To whom it may concern.
I absolutely oppose this bill!
There will be law suits for every 911 call for all first responders! This bill threatens the safety of everyone.
Do not "throw" this bill together because people want change.

"Put" it together responsibly. You haven't done anything thus far why rush now?
Make change, but don't threaten the lives of our first responders.
I hope that if I ever have to dial 911 someone answers the call.
I will blame YOU if they don't..... MY LIFE MATTERS too!

Get Outlook for Android <[joel@finkelfeldman.com](https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__aka.ms_ghei36&d=DwMFAG&c=1DF7oMaPKXpkYvev9V-fVahWL0QWnGCCAfCDz1Bns_w&r=uoevGInjCfTlguYncQubxpi5R6db_gq1YmKr0SCk2EnIiuk13zIs16rchf_GkGDD&m=MEnM6ixAYgQpEOldoDW9xgN6ki7HDmQqagzqHkEsZkQ&s=F5wYXPQLdpsrldA3Tl-lOmUwDCEJveE2mOz3hFkcXxE&e=>https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__aka.ms_ghei36&d=DwMFAG&c=1DF7oMaPKXpkYvev9V-fVahWL0QWnGCCAfCDz1Bns_w&r=uoevGInjCfTlguYncQubxpi5R6db_gq1YmKr0SCk2EnIiuk13zIs16rchf_GkGDD&m=MEnM6ixAYgQpEOldoDW9xgN6ki7HDmQqagzqHkEsZkQ&s=F5wYXPQLdpsrldA3Tl-lOmUwDCEJveE2mOz3hFkcXxE&e=>>
From: Joel Feldman <
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 8:35 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Subject: Strong Police Reform needed now!

To: Representative Aaron Michlewitz, Chairperson, House Committee on Ways and Means

Representative Claire Cronin, Chairperson, Joint Committee on the Judiciary

Hello, my name is Joel Feldman with the Greater Boston Interfaith Organization (GBIO). I live at 6 Peck Ave in Arlington. I am writing to urge you and the House to pass police reform that includes:

- * Implement Peace Officer Standards & Training with certification
- * Civil service access reform
- * Commission on structural racism
- * Clear statutory limits on police use of force
- * Qualified immunity reform

Thank you very much.

Joel Feldman

joel@finkelfeldman.com

781 690 2052

6 Peck Ave.

Arlington, MA 02476

From: Peter & Holly Lankowski <lankowski@verizon.net>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 8:31 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Subject: Concerns on S.2820

As your constituents, we write to you today to express our strong opposition to many parts of the recently passed S.2820. We hope that you will join us in prioritizing support for the establishment of a standards and accreditation committee, which includes increased transparency and reporting, as well as strong actions focused on the promotion of diversity and restrictions on excessive force. These goals are attainable and are needed now.

We are, however, concerned at the expansion of this legislation, targeting fundamental protections such as due process and qualified immunity. This bill in its present form is troubling in many ways and will make an already dangerous and difficult job even more dangerous for the men and women in law enforcement who serve our communities every day with honor and courage. Below are just a few areas, among many others, that concern us and warrant your rejection of these components of this bill:

(1) Due Process for all police officers: Fair and equitable process under the law demands the same rights of appeal afforded to all citizens and fellow public servants. Due process should not be viewed as an arduous impediment, but favored as a bedrock principle of fundamental fairness, procedure and accountability.

(2) Qualified Immunity: Qualified Immunity does not protect problem police officers. Qualified Immunity is extended to all public employees who act reasonably and in compliance with the rules and regulations of their respective departments, not just police officers. Qualified Immunity protects all public employees, as well as their municipalities, from frivolously lawsuits. This bill removes important liability protections essential for all public servants. Removing qualified immunity protections in this way will open officers, and other public employees to personal liabilities, causing significant financial burdens. This will impede future recruitment in all public fields: police officers, teachers, nurses, fire fighters, corrections officers, etc., as they are all directly affected by qualified immunity protections.

(3) POSA Committee: The composition of the POSA Committee must include more rank-and-file police officers and experts in the law enforcement field. If you're going to regulate law enforcement, up to and including termination, you must understand law enforcement. The same way doctors oversee doctors, lawyers oversee lawyers, teachers oversee teachers, experts in law enforcement should oversee practitioners in law enforcement.

In closing, we remind you that those who protect and serve communities across Massachusetts are some of the most sophisticated and educated law enforcement officials in the nation. We again implore you to amend and correct S.2820 so as to treat the men and women in law enforcement with the respect and dignity they deserve.

Thank you,

Peter & Hollace Lankowski
35 Stage Road, South Deerfield, MA 01373
lankowski@verizon.net or 413.665.7322

From: Ptl. Trevor Clark <trevorclark@randolphmapolice.com>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 8:34 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Cc: Ptl. Trevor Clark
Subject: S2820

The Chair of the House Committee on Ways and Means, Rep. Aaron Michlewitz, in cooperation with Rep. Claire Cronin, Chair of the Joint Committee on the Judiciary

- I have been employed as a police officer in the Town of Randolph for about 5 1/2 years now. Due to this bill, if it were to pass, I have been considering looking for a new career or even moving out of state to become a police officer else where. There are many officers that I work with and know throughout the state that are contemplating the same ideas.
- How do you think small towns will be impacted when say 20% of their department quit and/or retire? I can tell you one thing, crime will skyrocket and police productivity will come to a halt.
- Massachusetts police officers are some of the most highly trained officers in the country. Our academies are some of the best in the country and models for elsewhere. Also, we have in-service every year to go over updates on all aspects of our job. Then, on top of all this, most officers are so enthused to work that we actually pay to go to training on days off or take vacation days to go to trainings. In the past year I had to take vacation days and spend almost \$1000.00 to attend trainings I thought would help me become a better educated and higher trained officer. I had to pay for these trainings because departments are already underfunded and can't afford to send officers to trainings.
- We go out, put our lives on the line to apprehend criminals and protect our cities and towns, only for judges to release these violent and heinous criminals. When the judge releases criminals after committing a violent crime or violating probation or any other crime, it's a slap in our face. Now the politicians want to tie our hands behind our back and expect us to do our job. You're making our job harder and the judges make being a criminal easier.
- Good police hate bad police more than anyone.
- Police aren't saying we don't want reform, we'll take extra training, in fact, we want more training!
- Qualified Immunity needs to be erased from this bill. If you want to take away our qualified Immunity, than you, the politician and the judges

need to have yours revoked as well! No one should have it, strip it away from everyone!!

Thank you for your time,

Officer Trevor Clark
?Randolph Police Department
Patrol Division
41 South Main St
Randolph, MA, 02368
Station: 781.963.1212
Cell: 781.437.2493
Fax: 781.961.0968

From: Alice Napoleon <napoleonjones17@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 8:35 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Subject: Police Reform Bill

To: Representative Aaron Michlewitz, Chairperson, House Committee on Ways and Means

Representative Claire Cronin, Chairperson, Joint Committee on the Judiciary

Hello, my name is Alice Napoleon with the Greater Boston Interfaith Organization (GBIO). I live at 66 Dane Street in Somerville. I am writing to urge you and the House to pass police reform that includes:

- Implement Peace Officer Standards & Training with certification
- Civil service access reform
- Commission on structural racism
- Clear statutory limits on police use of force
- Qualified immunity reform

Thank you very much.

Alice Napoleon

napoleonjones17@gmail.com

617.460.4375

66 Dane St, Somerville, MA 02143

From: Earl Rowland <erowl99@aol.com>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 8:34 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Subject: Police Reform

Comittee members,

I would like to state my opposition to the Police reform bill , especially the qualified immunity portion. How can we expect officers to do all that is asked of them without this provision , impossible. I don't hear any of you giving up that very benefit in a Much less strenuous position. All we need to do is look at what is going on in other cities to see how important law enforcement is to quality of life.

Thank you

Sent from my iPhone

From: Everett L. Moody <ELMoody@lancasterma.net>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 8:34 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Subject: Worth a read

If you believe law-enforcement is here to help protect and serve, I need your help. If you believe that in living in a civilized, equality opportunistic world is worth fighting for, we need your help. Help law enforcement now so that we can be there to help you when you need us in the future.

We all know that police reform is the number one topic sweeping across our nation. Defunding the police is the new solution for every problem in America. I assure you, no one believes police reform is more necessary than your local law-enforcement officers. We would love to have mental health workers by our side working with us with the ever-growing mental Health crisis in America. We would love to have ample social service personnel along side while we deescalate every domestic situation with perfect success. We would love to go back to a world where toy guns look like toy guns. We welcome more training, higher education, and change in policies. We believe and represent a safer more diverse and equally equitable future for all. Justice and equality are at the very core of our community policing initiatives. We have invested our lives, our health, and the safety of our families in an effort to uphold the laws that our country has created. With your help we have built community relationships and raised the quality of life in our city's and towns. We overwhelmingly respond to the public's call for help in good faith, we maintain public order, we protect and we serve. With society ever evolving it is abundantly clear that the style of policing and the nature of what is to be policed has not evolved equally to reflect the needs and desires of the people. We understand reform is a path to close the gap of what is

being done and what needs to be done. We know how important it is to do this quickly but we know better than anyone it needs to be done carefully. If we move too fast, if we dissolve protection without clarity we risk the collapse of our community's first line of defense. The current language to remove qualified immunity from law-enforcement would create a world where justice cannot be served unless compliance is given voluntarily. Unfortunately America, there are bad people in this world, those who will not comply to law and order, those who will not live by civilized rules and yes at times those who will need to be physically taken into custody, sometimes by all legal levels of force necessary. To allow any government official to be held civilly liable in the LEGAL execution of the job that society has created is unacceptable. This can not happen! Reform, rebuild, re-educate, repurpose, those are the platforms to a sustainable future for your law enforcement professionals. Taking away CIVIL protection for doing everything RIGHT, is WRONG America!

Have a great day.

Lieutenant Everett L. Moody.

The contents of this email and any attachments are the property of the Town of Lancaster Massachusetts and subject to the Public Records Law, M.G.L. c. 66, section 10. When writing or responding, please remember that the Massachusetts Secretary of State's Office has determined that email is a public record and not confidential.

From: B K <bkubiak9@gmail.com>

Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 8:33 AM

To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)

Subject: Police Reform Bill - Testimony

Good Morning,

My name is Brett Kubiak and I am a Police Officer employed by the Worcester Police Department.

In addition to serving as a Police Officer, I am a proud Father to two young sons, Zackary (3) and Matthew (1) and a husband to an amazing and supportive wife, Sarah.

I am writing today to ask you to please consider the ramifications of passing legislation that exposes myself and my family to undue frivolous litigation, by removing qualified immunity. The removal of such basic labor protections tears at the very fabric of civilized society and places undue financial pressure on blue collar working class families.

In addition to the proposal of "removing" qualified immunity is the idea of due process. I am greatly troubled that a review board of untrained civilians may have the ability to remove my certification as a Police Officer. I encourage anyone voting on such a House Bill to ride-along with a Police Officer on a shift and attend a 'Use of Force' training before voting on such an important issue.

I will tell you that if this legislation passes I will be looking to leave the profession of law enforcement - a career I pursued after working in the private sector for several years. It has always been a lifelong dream

to serve my community as a police officer, but without the support of my legislators and the public it simply does not make sense to risk my life or my families finances anymore.

I implore you to use common sense and think about how this proposed legislation will affect your communities as you consider your vote.

Thank you for your consideration and for allowing law enforcement to have a voice in such an important issue.

Respectfully Submitted, Brett Kubiak

Sent from my iPhone
From: Deschenes, Robert
<rdeschenes@TempletonMA.gov>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 8:33 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Subject: FW: House Bill 5128 Police Reform

From: Deschenes, Robert
Sent: Thursday, July 16, 2020 2:22 PM
To: bostonhockey1989@icloud.com
Subject: FW: House Bill 5128 Police Reform

From: Deschenes, Robert
Sent: Thursday, July 16, 2020 10:34 AM
To: Donald.berthiaume@mahouse.gov
Cc: Bennett, Mike <mbennett@templetonma.gov>
Subject: House Bill 5128 Police Reform

Sir, Good Morning. My name is Robert J. Deschenes I am currently a Police Officer with the Templeton Police Department, & a resident of Hubbardston. After reviewing Bill proposal #5128 regarding Police reform I was shocked. I understand times are tough right now, but some of the regulations proposed will be a huge safety risk not only to Police Officers, but also the Civilian Public we protect. We are not looking for any sympathy, but Police Work is incredibly tough, and continues to get tougher every year. We make split second decisions in an attempt to protect innocent lives and ourselves, and unless you have been put in that position you would not understand the pressure that is involved with that. Our goal is to never use force, and deescalate every situation peacefully, but that is simply not possible all the time.

Although Police Reform may be needed in some situations, myself along with many other Officer do not agree with Bill #5128, and fear the safety issues it will cause. The Bill also seems very rushed along. How can effective reform be efficient if the time is not taken to truly investigate and discuss the real issues? Thank You for taking the time to read this, its greatly appreciated.

Respectively;

Patrolman Robert J. Deschenes

From: S Krause <smkrause67@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 8:33 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Subject: Opposition S.2820

Dear Representatives

I am writing to state I am against S2820 as presented.

The senate version of this bill as written will seriously undermine public safety by limiting police officer's ability to do their jobs while simultaneously allowing provisions to protect criminals. Furthermore, the process employed by the Senate to push this through with such haste without public hearing or input of any kind was extremely undemocratic and nontransparent.

Police across the commonwealth support uniform training standards and policies and have been requesting more training for years

The Senate version of a regulatory board is unacceptable as it strips officers of the due process rights and does away with protections currently set forth in collective bargaining agreements and civil service law. The Senate created a board that is dominated by anti-police groups who have a long-detailed record of biases against law enforcement and preconceived punitive motives toward police. A bill that does not include the same procedural justice safeguards members of the communities we serve demand and enjoy will not be supported.

The proposed makeup of the oversight board is one sided and biased against law enforcement. It is unlike any of the 160 other regulatory boards across the Commonwealth and as constructed incapable if being fair and impartial.

What the Senate has tried to do is pass a knee jerk reaction to an incident which occurred half a country away that everyone agrees was egregious.

Massachusetts police officers are among the highest educated and trained in the country.

This bill directly attacks qualified immunity and due process. Qualified immunity does not protect bad officers, it protects good officers from civil lawsuits. We should want our officers to be able to act to protect our communities without fear of being sued at every turn, otherwise why would they put themselves at risk? A large majority of law enforcement officers do the right thing and are good officers, yet there is a real push to end qualified immunity to open good officers up to frivolous lawsuits because of the actions of a few who, by their own actions, would not be covered by qualified immunity anyway. It just doesn't make any sense why we are endangering the livelihood of many for the actions of a few.

Changes to qualified immunity would be unnecessary if the legislature adopted a uniform statewide standard and bans unlawful use of force techniques which all police personnel unequivocally support.

If the senate bill is passed in its current form, the costs to municipalities and the State will skyrocket from frivolous lawsuits and potentially having a devastating impact on budgets statewide.

Again, I reiterate that you consider voting against S2820 as presented.

Thank you for your consideration,
Sharon Krause
44 Como Road
Hyde Park Ma 02136

Sent from my iPhone
From: Dan Mendelsohn <danmendelsohn17@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 8:32 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Subject: Police Reform Bill Testimony

Good Morning,

My name is Dan Mendelsohn and I am a school social worker in Springfield, MA. I am writing to strongly support increasing the age at which emerging adults are processed in the juvenile justice system from 18 to 20 years old. My background studying both sociology and social work has shown me conclusive data that young adult brains are not fully formed which directly affects their risky decision making. I have also seen, through my academic and professional life, the cascading downward effect of an adult criminal justice conviction for a young adult, on them individually and also on their family members and community. Please strongly consider raising the age from 18 to 20 and saving lives using science and reason.

Sincerely,
Dan Mendelsohn
From: Jen Lynch <lynch.sheehan@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 8:32 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Cc: Lovely, Joan B. (SEN); Sternman, Mark (SEN)
Subject: Testimony S.2800

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to voice my support for Senate bill S.2800. I read through the bill earlier this week and was encouraged to see that the legislature was taking the matter of police accountability seriously. I think an independent commission is a good first step, and I also would like to encourage the Senate to consider including all or a portion of the following two related bills:

HD.5128, An Act Relative to Saving Black Lives and Transforming Public Safety. There is no reason police need to use choke-holds, no knock warrants, or tear gas. Personnel decisions, such as hiring abusive officers should be informed by public records of officer misconduct.

HB.3277 An Act to Secure Civil Rights through the Courts of the Commonwealth. Ends the practice of qualified immunity. Police officers are hired to enforce the law, and serve and protect citizens. They absolutely should be personally liable if they are found to have violated a person's civil rights, as any other citizen would be. Rather than hold them above the law, they should be held to higher standards.

Thank you for taking my testimony. I look forward to reading that Massachusetts is a leader in progressive police reform.

All the best,

Jen Lynch

Salem, MA

From: Alicia Powell <powellshrink@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 8:30 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Subject: Pass SB 2800, Reform, Shift, Build Act

Dear Chairman Aaron Michlewitz & Co-chair Rep. Claire Cronin:

My name is Alicia Powell. I am a resident of Boston and a member of March like a Mother: for Black Lives. I am writing this virtual testimony to urge you to pass SB.2800 the Reform, Shift, Build Act in its entirety. It is the minimum and the bill must leave the legislature in its entirety.

I have previously worked for law enforcement agencies, so I value my fellow citizens who serve as our police force. Now, as a physician caring

for some of our city's most vulnerable citizens & the mother of a biracial child, I believe when my patients, child & her friends tell me about their experiences with police violence. I know that our police officers are expected to handle too much, with too little training & support (anything short of a full clinical degree in a mental health field is too little). Law enforcement culture rewards toxic masculinity & makes very little space for humanity. This must change at the structural level.

This bill bans chokeholds, promotes de-escalation tactics, certifies police officers, prohibits the use of facial recognition, limits qualified immunity for police, and redirects money from policing to community investment.

I urge you to ensure that all aspects of this bill are intact. We are in a historical moment and this bill ensures that we in Massachusetts meet the demand of this movement.

Thank you for your consideration of your request to give SB.2800 a favorable report.

Sincerely,

Alicia Powell, MD

3 Newsome Park

Jamaica Plain, MA

From: Elizabeth Wieman <elizabeth.wieman4@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 8:30 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Subject: Police Reform Bill

To: Representative Aaron Michlewitz, Chairperson, House Committee on Ways and Means

Representative Claire Cronin, Chairperson, Joint Committee on the Judiciary

Hello, my name is Rev. Elizabeth Wieman with the Greater Boston Interfaith Organization (GBIO). I live at 235 Beech Street, Roslindale MA. I am writing to urge you and the House to pass real police reform that includes:

- Implement Peace Officer Standards & Training with certification
- Civil service access reform

- Commission on structural racism
- Clear statutory limits on police use of force
- Qualified immunity reform

These reforms will restore much needed trust in law enforcement in the Commonwealth.

Thank you very much.

Elizabeth Wieman

elizabeth.wieman4@gmail.com

From: jan nassise <jannassise@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 8:29 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Subject: Testimony on Police Reform bill

As your constituent, I write to you today to express my strong opposition to many parts of the recently passed S.2820. I hope that you will join me in prioritizing support for the establishment of a standards and accreditation committee, which includes increased transparency and reporting, as well as strong actions focused on the promotion of diversity and restrictions on excessive force. These goals are attainable and are needed now.

I am, however, concerned at the expansion of this legislation, targeting fundamental protections such as due process and qualified immunity. This bill in its present form is troubling in many ways and will make an already dangerous and difficult job even more dangerous for the men and women in law enforcement who serve our communities every day with honor and courage. Below are just a few areas, among many others, that concern me and warrant your rejection of these components of this bill:

(1) Due Process for all police officers: Fair and equitable process under the law demands the same rights of appeal afforded to all citizens and fellow public servants. Due process should not be viewed as an arduous impediment, but favored as a bedrock principle of fundamental fairness, procedure and accountability.

(2) Qualified Immunity: Qualified Immunity does not protect problem police officers. Qualified Immunity is extended to all public employees who act reasonably and in compliance with the rules and regulations of their respective departments, not just police officers. Qualified Immunity protects all public employees, as well as their municipalities, from frivolously lawsuits. This bill removes important liability protections essential for all public servants. Removing qualified immunity protections in this way will open officers, and other public employees to personal liabilities, causing significant financial burdens. This will impede future recruitment in all public fields: police officers, teachers, nurses, fire fighters, corrections officers, etc., as they are all directly affected by qualified immunity protections.

(3) POSA Committee: The composition of the POSA Committee must include more rank-and-file police officers and experts in the law enforcement field. If you're going to regulate law enforcement, up to and including termination, you must understand law enforcement. The same way doctors oversee doctors, lawyers oversee lawyers, teachers oversee teachers, experts in law enforcement should oversee practitioners in law enforcement.

In closing, I remind you that those who protect and serve communities across Massachusetts are some of the most sophisticated and educated law enforcement officials in the nation. I again implore you to amend and correct S.2820 so as to treat the men and women in law enforcement with the respect and dignity they deserve.

Thank you,

Janice Nassise

7 Mockingbird Lane

North Easton, Ma. 02356

jannassise@gmail.com

From: Josephine Henry <henrycarver3@aol.com>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 8:27 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Subject: Reject Senate Policing bill SB 2820

Dear Members of the Massachusetts House of Representatives:

I am writing to ask you to reject the Policing Bill, SB 2820. It endangers public safety, removes important protections for police, and creates a commission to study and make recommendations regarding policing with a lopsided membership.

Section 49 alters our education laws to prohibit school officials from reporting immigration or citizenship status to any law enforcement authority or GANG MEMBERSHIP.

To think that school authorities would be prohibited from telling the police that a student might be a member of MS-13 or any other dangerous gang is extremely dangerous. Section 49 should be eliminated.

SB 2820 endangers our police by dramatically watering down "qualified immunity" in Section 10. This provision should be eliminated.

Section 52 should also be eliminated as it hinders an officer's ability to protect our roadways as well as him- or herself by not allowing them to ask someone who they have stopped about their immigration or citizenship status.

Section 63 creates a fifteen-member commission to make recommendations on policing. But, only 3 of the 15 are associated with policing. It should have more equal representation of law enforcement officers.

I oppose SB 2820, and at a minimum, it should specifically eliminate any provisions similar to sections 10, 49, 52, and amend Section 63 to have more police representation.

Sincerely,

Sent from my iPad
From: William Gibbs <wbrooksgibbs@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 8:28 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Subject: S2820

Hello,

My name is William Gibbs. I am a Board Certified Prosthetist at the West Roxbury VAMC. 508 317 3806.

I fully support the maximum amount of reform possible for police in MA. The complete elimination of qualified immunity. Significant reduction in police funding to reduce their roll in society to just policing. Not mental health. Not homelessness. Not crisis management. Accountability is necessary. Public database of misconduct and rule preventing the hiring of officers with histories of misconduct.

As a medical professional, if I hurt a patient or break rules regarding safety I would be personally liable for that harm. Why should police be any different. If I can help serve America's Veterans under close scrutiny, then I think local police can be held to a much higher standard.

Thank you,

William Gibbs CP

From: Tim Lash <jtimlash@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 8:28 AM

To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Subject: Support for police reform (GBIO)

To: Representative Aaron Michlewitz, Chairperson, House Committee on Ways and Means

Representative Claire Cronin, Chairperson, Joint Committee on the Judiciary

Hello, my name is James Timothy Lash with the Greater Boston Interfaith Organization (GBIO). I live at 22 Highland Ave #2 in Roxbury. I am writing to urge you and the House to pass police reform that includes:

- * Implement Peace Officer Standards & Training with certification
- * Civil service access reform
- * Commission on structural racism
- * Clear statutory limits on police use of force
- * Qualified immunity reform

Thank you very much.

James Timothy (Tim) Lash

682-472-7460

22 Highland Ave #2

Roxbury, MA 02119

From: warzo64@verizon.net
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 8:26 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Subject: S2820

Dear House of Representatives,

My name is Matthew Warren and I live at 21 Millbrook Ln in Wakefield, Massachusetts. As your constituent, I write to you today to express my staunch opposition to S.2820, a piece of hastily-thrown-together

legislation that will hamper law enforcement efforts across the Commonwealth. It robs police officers of the same Constitutional Rights extended to citizens across the nation. It is misguided and wrong.

Like most of my neighbors, I am dismayed at the scarcity of respect and protections extended to police officers in your proposed reforms. While there is always room for improvement in policing, the proposed legislation has far too many flaws. Of the many concerns, three, in particular, stand out and demand immediate attention, modification and/or correction. Those issues are:

(1) Due Process for all police officers: Fair and equitable process under the law. The appeal processes afforded to police officers have been in place for generations. They deserve to maintain the right to appeal given to all of our public servants.

(2) Qualified Immunity: Qualified Immunity does not protect problem police officers. Qualified Immunity is extended to all public employees who act reasonably and in compliance with the rules and regulations of their respective departments, not just police officers. Qualified Immunity protects all public employees, as well as their municipalities, from frivolously unrealistic lawsuits.

(3) POSA Committee: The composition of the POSA Committee must include rank-and-file police officers. If you're going to regulate law enforcement, up to and including termination, you must understand law enforcement. The same way doctors oversee doctors, lawyers oversee lawyers, teachers oversee teachers, law enforcement should oversee law enforcement.

In closing, I remind you that those who protect and serve communities across Massachusetts are some of the most sophisticated and educated law enforcement officials in the nation. Let me remind you that in 2015 President Obama recognized the Boston Police Department as one of the best in the nation at community policing. I again implore you to amend and correct S.2820 so as to treat the men and women in law enforcement with the respect and dignity they deserve.

Sincerely,

Matthew Warren

From: Terri Driscoll <terridriscoll5@outlook.com>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 8:28 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Subject: S.2820

Good Morning,

As your constituent, I write to you today to express my strong opposition to many parts of the recently passed S.2820. I hope that you will join me in prioritizing support for the establishment of a standards and accreditation committee, which includes increased transparency and

reporting, as well as strong actions focused on the promotion of diversity and restrictions on excessive force. These goals are attainable and are needed now.

I am, however, concerned at the expansion of this legislation, targeting fundamental protections such as due process and qualified immunity. This bill in its present form is troubling in many ways and will make an already dangerous and difficult job even more dangerous for the men and women in law enforcement who serve our communities every day with honor and courage. Below are just a few areas, among many others, that concern me and warrant your rejection of these components of this bill:

(1)?Due Process for all police officers: Fair and equitable process under the law demands the same rights of appeal afforded to all citizens and fellow public servants. Due process should not be viewed as an arduous impediment, but favored as a bedrock principle of fundamental fairness, procedure and accountability.

(2)?Qualified Immunity: Qualified Immunity does not protect problem police officers. Qualified Immunity is extended to all public employees who act reasonably and in compliance with the rules and regulations of their respective departments, not just police officers. Qualified Immunity protects all public employees, as well as their municipalities, from frivolously lawsuits. This bill removes important liability protections essential for all public servants. Removing qualified immunity protections in this way will open officers, and other public employees to personal liabilities, causing significant financial burdens. This will impede future recruitment in all public fields: police officers, teachers, nurses, fire fighters, corrections officers, etc., as they are all directly affected by qualified immunity protections.

(3)?POSA Committee: The composition of the POSA Committee must include more rank-and-file police officers and experts in the law enforcement field. If you're going to regulate law enforcement, up to and including termination, you must understand law enforcement. The same way doctors oversee doctors, lawyers oversee lawyers, teachers oversee teachers, experts in law enforcement should oversee practitioners in law enforcement.

In closing, I remind you that those who protect and serve communities across Massachusetts are some of the most sophisticated and educated law enforcement officials in the nation. I again implore you to amend and correct S.2820 so as to treat the men and women in law enforcement with the respect and dignity they deserve.

Thank you,

Theresa Driscoll
Of Reading

Get Outlook for iOS <https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__aka.ms_o0ukef&d=DwMGaQ&c=1DF7oMaPKXpkYvev9V-fVahWL0QWnGCCAfCDz1Bns_w&r=uoevGInjCfTlguYncQubxpi5R6db_gq1YmKr0SCk2EnIiuk13zIs16rchf_GkGDD&m=mJsIPxseFOjjnKBVGPkp1A6vzAij_2w5y10D49eATFw&s=1r13-EgUUFpB3E_9bi9EzPrxagla4VbG7SuDx2hObbY&e=>>
From: Margaret Heitz <heitz.up@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 8:28 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Cc: Ciccolo, Michelle - Rep. (HOU); shayok.chakraborty@gbio.org
Subject: Testimony for House Police Reform Bill

Dear Representative Aaron Michlewitz and Representative Cronin,

I volunteer with GBIO. I live at 335 Marrett Road in Lexington. I am very disturbed that even in my reputedly liberal community police would profile, stop, and humiliate motorists---even just one motorist---who pass through Lexington.

I urge you and the House to pass a strong police reform bill that is at least as strong as the Senate bill and that includes:

- * Peace Officer Standards & Training with certification
- * Civil service access reform
- * A commission on structural racism
- * Clear statutory limits on police use of force
- * Qualified immunity reform

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Yours,

Margaret Heitz

heitz.up@gmail.com

781.861.0191

335 Marrett Rd, Lexington, MA 02421

--

Margaret Heitz

Register to vote.

Sign up for election reminders.

<https://turbovote.org> <https://urldefense.proofpoint.com/v2/url?u=https-3A__turbovote.org&d=DwMFaQ&c=1DF7oMaPKXpkYvev9V-fVahWL0QWnGCCAfCDz1Bns_w&r=uoevGInjCfTlguYncQubxpi5R6db_gq1YmKr0SCk2EnIiuk13zIs16rchf_GkGDD&m=pOI8sAoB83s3vQZZbNSCxysWm_upMbFw_JxkgmrFITw&s=pj0edrto tvBQsaHffxbFozZilbWfjLUfzTrKRSqMokc&e=>>

From: Mike Cusolito <mdcusol24@comcast.net>

Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 8:27 AM

To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)

As your constituent, I write to you today to express my strong opposition to many parts of the recently passed S.2820. I hope that you will join me in prioritizing support for the establishment of a standards and accreditation committee, which includes increased transparency and reporting, as well as strong actions focused on the promotion of diversity and restrictions on excessive force. These goals are attainable and are needed now.

I am, however, concerned at the expansion of this legislation, targeting fundamental protections such as due process and qualified immunity. This bill in its present form is troubling in many ways and will make an already dangerous and difficult job even more dangerous for the men and women in law enforcement who serve our communities every day with honor and courage. Below are just a few areas, among many others, that concern me and warrant your rejection of these components of this bill:

(1)?Due Process for all police officers: Fair and equitable process under the law demands the same rights of appeal afforded to all citizens and fellow public servants. Due process should not be viewed as an arduous impediment, but favored as a bedrock principle of fundamental fairness, procedure and accountability.

(2)?Qualified Immunity: Qualified Immunity does not protect problem police officers. Qualified Immunity is extended to all public employees who act reasonably and in compliance with the rules and regulations of their respective departments, not just police officers. Qualified Immunity protects all public employees, as well as their municipalities, from frivolously lawsuits. This bill removes important liability protections essential for all public servants. Removing qualified immunity protections in this way will open officers, and other public employees to personal liabilities, causing significant financial burdens. This will impede future recruitment in all public fields: police

officers, teachers, nurses, fire fighters, corrections officers, etc., as they are all directly affected by qualified immunity protections.

(3)?POSA Committee: The composition of the POSA Committee must include more rank-and-file police officers and experts in the law enforcement field. If you're going to regulate law enforcement, up to and including termination, you must understand law enforcement. The same way doctors oversee doctors, lawyers oversee lawyers, teachers oversee teachers, experts in law enforcement should oversee practitioners in law enforcement.

In closing, I remind you that those who protect and serve communities across Massachusetts are some of the most sophisticated and educated law enforcement officials in the nation. I again implore you to amend and correct S.2820 so as to treat the men and women in law enforcement with the respect and dignity they deserve.

Thank you,

Michael D. Cusolito

533 Old Barnstable Rd

East Falmouth, MA 02536

Mdcusol24@comcast.net

Sent from my iPhone
From: Joseph Twomey <joe2mey8@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 8:27 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Subject: Senate Bill 2820

July 16, 2020

Dear Chair Michlewitz and Chair Cronin,

My name is Joseph Twomey and I live in Medford. I work at the Essex County Sheriff's Department and I am a Correctional Officer. As a constituent, I write to express my opposition to Senate Bill 2820. This legislation is detrimental to police and correction officers who work every day to keep the people of the Commonwealth safe. In 2019 the Criminal Justice System went through reform. That reform took several years to develop. I am dismayed in the hastiness that this bill was passed but I welcome the opportunity to tell you how this bill turns its back on the very men and women who serve the public.

Qualified immunity doesn't protect officers who break the law or violate someone's civil rights. Qualified Immunity protects officers who did not clearly violate statutory policy or constitutional rights. The erasure of this would open up the flood gates for frivolous lawsuits causing officers to acquire additional insurance and tying up the justice system causing the Commonwealth millions of dollars to process such frivolous lawsuits.

The fact that you want to take away an officer's use of pepper spray, impact weapons and K9 would leave no other option than to go from, yelling "Stop" to hands on tactics and/or using your firearm. We are all for de-escalation but if you take away these tools the amount of injuries and deaths would without a doubt rise.

While we are held to a higher standard than others in the community, to have an oversight committee made of people who have never worn the uniform, including an ex convicted felon is completely unnecessary and irresponsible. When this oversight board hears testimony where are the officer's rights under our collective bargaining agreement? Where are our rights to due process? What is the appeal process? These are things that have never been heard or explained to me. The need for responsible and qualified individuals on any committee should be first and foremost.

I am asking you to stop and think about the rush to reform police and corrections in such haste. Our officers are some of the best and well-trained officers anywhere. Although, we are not opposed to getting better it should be done with dignity and respect for the men and women who serve the Commonwealth. I ask that you think about the police officer you need to keep your streets safe from violence, and don't dismantle proven community policing practices. I would also ask you to think about the Correction Officer alone in a cell block, surrounded by up to one hundred inmates, not knowing when violence could erupt. I'm asking for your support and ensuring that whatever reform is passed that you do it responsibly. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Joseph Twomey

From: Donald McCormack <donmack6@comcast.net>
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2020 8:27 AM
To: Testimony HWM Judiciary (HOU)
Subject: Fwd: police/corrections reform

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Donald McCormack <donmack6@comcast.net>
Date: July 17, 2020 at 8:19:26 AM EDT
To: donmack6@comcast.net

????????????? July 16, 2020

Dear Chair Michlewitz and Chair Cronin,

My name is Donald McCormack and I live at 6 Norman rd in Billerica Ma. I work at MCI Concord and am a Correctional officer . As a constituent, I write to express my opposition to Senate Bill 2820. This legislation is detrimental to police and correction officers who work every day to keep the people of the Commonwealth safe. In 2019 the Criminal Justice System went through reform. That reform took several years to develop. I am dismayed in the hastiness that this bill was passed but I welcome the opportunity to tell you how this bill turns its back on the very men and women who serve the public.

Qualified Immunity: Qualified immunity doesn't protect officers who break the law or violate someone's civil rights. Qualified Immunity protects officers who did not clearly violate statutory policy or constitutional rights. The erasure of this would open up the flood gates for frivolous lawsuits causing officers to acquire additional insurance and tying up the justice system causing the Commonwealth millions of dollars to process such frivolous lawsuits.

Less than Lethal Tools: The fact that you want to take away an officer's use of pepper spray, impact weapons and K9 would leave no other option than to go from, yelling "Stop" to hands on tactics and/or using your firearm. We are all for de-escalation but if you take away these tools the amount of injuries and deaths would without a doubt rise.

Civilian Oversight: While we are held to a higher standard than others in the community, to have an oversight committee made of people who have never worn the uniform, including an ex convicted felon is completely unnecessary and irresponsible. When this oversight board hears testimony where are the officer's rights under our collective bargaining agreement? Where are our rights to due process? What is the appeal process? These are things that have never been heard or explained to me. The need for responsible and qualified individuals on any committee should be first and foremost.

I am asking you to stop and think about the rush to reform police and corrections in such haste. Our officers are some of the best and well-trained officers anywhere. Although, we are not opposed to getting better it should be done with dignity and respect for the men and women who serve the Commonwealth. I ask that you think about the police officer you need to keep your streets safe from violence, and don't dismantle proven community policing practices. I would also ask you to think about the Correction Officer alone in a cell block, surrounded by up to one hundred inmates, not knowing when violence could erupt. I'm asking for your support and ensuring that whatever reform is passed that you do it responsibly. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Donald W McCormack

Sent from my iPhone

From: Kimberly Mahoney <krmahoney72@gmail.com>