



Amesbury

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Dear Chair Aaron Michlewitz and Chair Claire Cronin, please accept the following testimony with regard to SB2820 - An Act to reform police standards and shift resources to build a more equitable, fair and just commonwealth that values Black lives and communities of color.

I am sure by this time that you have received and reviewed the letter submitted to you by Chiefs Kyes and Farnsworth representing the Mass. Chiefs, which outlines the concern I and my fellow Chiefs have concerning SB 2820. Although I am in support of police reform across the Commonwealth, a hurried response to “do something” in the wake of recent events is asking for significant unintended consequences down the road. I have been in law enforcement for nearly forty years, during that time many jobs and services that belonged to mental health and social services were defunded, closed and/or reduced. The need for those services, programs and facilities never diminished! The responsibility to provide those services was thrust onto law enforcement however; the funding, resources and training never accompanied the job expectations. Law enforcement in this Commonwealth has done its best to rise up and meet those demands, but without the support of our legislators we cannot be successful. I urge you not to support SB 2820 until it can be cooperatively addressed so as to reduce the potential of unintended consequences.

William A. Scholtz
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