



Local 75

SOMERSET POLICE OFFICERS' UNION

A member of the New England Police Benevolent Associations, Inc

465 County Street

Somerset, Massachusetts 02726



Local 80

15 July 2020

Patricia Haddad
State Representative – 5th Bristol District
Massachusetts House of Representatives
23 Beacon Street Room 330
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Representative Haddad,

We are writing you on behalf of the men and women we represent of the Somerset Police Department, in response to the passage of Massachusetts Senate bill number 2800, in hopes to better expand your knowledge of what this bill does to public safety in Massachusetts.

This 72 page bill passed by the Senate does the following:

- Unnecessarily puts the lives and safety of police officers in danger
- Aims to regulate use of force by police without any recognition that officers need to make split second decisions, often under extreme stress and circumstances
- Changes dozens of laws and creates and funds at least 6 new agencies commissions or committees
- Creates a police licensing board which will be staffed by members of organizations who sue our communities and state as well as advocate for the elimination of police services
- Eliminates collective bargaining rights for police officers
- Takes power away from cities and towns to control their own employees
- Requires a receipt be generated related to virtually any interaction between a police officer and a member of the public
- Takes away due process rights of law enforcement officers
- Exposes police officers and their families to personal liability even when they are acting in good faith and under the color of law
- Opens municipalities to frivolous lawsuits which will increase cost to taxpayers to defend the cases
- Expands the rights of individuals convicted of multiple crimes by expunging their criminal records

These are just a few examples of how this bill will erode the ability for law enforcement to do their jobs safely and effectively doing so. We urge you to consider the information provided above when voting on this bill and or drafting amendments. We also urge you to not be like the Senate and hold public hearings on this matter as well as we implore you to open the lines of communication between the law enforcement community and yourselves to get all the facts and information about this matter.

Sergeant Todd V. Costa
President Local 75 Supervisors Union

Patrol Officer James B. Vicente-Roberts
President Local 80 Patrol Officers Union