

CHIEF OF POLICE

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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. As a local Police Chief and veteran police officer I would like to offer the following recommendations:

- 1. Section 6 (line 272): As a law enforcement professional I am in favor of creating a POST system. This will add professionalism to the occupation and create a new standard. However; I believe the language should be similar to the 46 other states who have adopted a similar system. The use of the acronym POST should be universally applied and the term POSAC should be eliminated. Additionally, the board should include 2 members selected from MA Chiefs of Police.*
- 2. Section 10(C) (line570): I would offer similar thoughts mirrored by a statement submitted by MA Chiefs of Police.*
- 3. Section 39 (line1025): This language makes sense. However; the need for a public hearing is absurd and will only create an additional hazard for law enforcement.*
- 4. Section 49 (line 1101-1115): This provision prevents school personnel from sharing and communicating with law enforcement officers. The senate should read the report written by President Obama on 21st century policing and realize that in order to build trust in a community – communication is a vital component.*
- 5. Section 50 (line1116): Language regarding an SRO has already been established in the 2018 Criminal Justice Reform Act. There is no need to create another set of standards.*
- 6. Section 52 (lines 1138-1251): We already have a comprehensive form of data collection that was recently enacted. There is no need complicate the matter further.*
- 7. Section 55 (line 1272): We do not use chokeholds. However; an officer needs to be able to react to a deadly encounter in a variety of ways. Accordingly, there needs to be a deadly force exception for the use of a potential life-saving tactic.*

Respectfully submitted:

Dennis J. Towle
Chief of Police
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