



TOWN OF WELLESLEY POLICE DEPARTMENT

WELLESLEY, MA 02482
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JACK PILECKI
Chief of Police

July 17, 2020

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 you have heard from a great many other Chiefs of Police at this point. Needless to say it is a very difficult time, not only for police officers, but for the members of our communities that we serve.

I could go over each particular point of the bill that are concerning not only to me, but to the Massachusetts Chiefs of Police Association. However, I am confident these concerns, which I wholeheartedly share, have already been brought to your attention. I do not want to waste your time going over these issues once again.

Instead, I would prefer to simply ask you to examine the bill from the perspective of police officers. If we are to be subject to frivolous and unfounded lawsuits, why would anyone with any common sense want to join this noble profession? Why would any current police officer want to continue to provide the services and perform the duties he/she are doing right now?

For most police officers the profession is a “calling”. We dream as children of putting on the uniform to “protect and serve” our communities. When your badge is finally pinned on your uniform by your loved one after successfully completing a grueling police academy, the feeling is one of exhilaration and pride. Unfortunately, there are a few police officers who don’t deserve to wear the badge and it’s these officers who bring disgrace to this wonderful profession. Don’t judge all of us by these shameful few.

Please don’t dishonor the hard working people who labor so hard to do the right thing by adopting laws that will limit an officer’s ability to provide such a valuable service to our communities. We agree with and support most of SB2820. We understand change is needed. But please bring about this needed change through a thoughtful and measured bill that doesn’t discredit and alienate our dedicated police officers.

Sincerely,


Chief Jack Pilecki