



Town of West Bridgewater POLICE DEPARTMENT



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Re: 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.

Claire from our conversations, I understand how passionate you are on the safety of our youth and our continued commitment to community policing. The impact of this bill to our department and all Massachusetts Police Departments will be devastating. We will lose many highly educated, professional and compassionate police officers to early retirement while others will change their profession entirely.

As you are aware, It has always been difficult to hire qualified, passionate, honest and caring individuals for this profession. If this bill passes it will make it almost impossible. Qualified immunity is not a protection for the few officers that abuse their authority it is protection for the officers who go out every day to honor the police profession in a compassionate and professional manner.

Respectfully,

Victor R. Flaherty Jr.
Chief of Police

Cc: Representative Michelle Dubois