



WHITMAN POLICE DEPARTMENT

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Timothy P. Hanlon

Chief of Police

July 17, 2020

To: Chairwoman Cronin and Chairman Michlewitz

Via Email: Testimony.HWMJudiciary@mahouse.gov

Re: Concerns to Senate 2820 as Amended

Dear Chairwoman Cronin and Chairman Michlewitz,

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.

Without belaboring the concerns presented in the attached letter from the Massachusetts Chiefs of Police Association (MCOPA) in further detail, I urge you to reconsider passing SB2820 as amended. A complete and full comprehension of the intended and unintended consequences this legislation would have on the police profession in Massachusetts is necessary before enacting such wide sweeping reforms. I do not believe the intent of SB2820 can be accomplished by hastily rushing to reform long standing concepts in policing over the course of a few weeks.

As a law enforcement professional with over 20 years of experience, I am not ashamed to say that I, and those under my supervision are having difficulty envisioning what policing in Massachusetts would become should the concerns outlined in the MCOPA letter authored by Chief Brian Kyes and Chief Jeff Farnsworth fall on deaf ears.

Police officers need a thorough and complete understanding of what is expected of them in performing their duties to the best of their abilities. Collective reform of a large number of mandates in batch form will undermine the confidence these officers need in order to function in making split-second decisions under life-threatening circumstances.

In closing, I thank you for the opportunity to be heard regarding SB2820.

Sincerely,

Timothy P. Hanlon

Chief of Police

Whitman Police Department