

I believe the bill is a knee-jerk reaction with the potential for harm to the public and to law-enforcement personnel. Should this bill be passed as it stands we could expect to see a significant number of seasoned police officers retire or quit. Being a police officer in our State and in our country is one of the most dangerous jobs anyone can do. They have to be able to operate knowing that they are safe. That they are protected. I absolutely agree that there are bad apples among them but I think measures such as personal liability insurance is going too far. Who is going to pay for that? Who is going to want to pursue this noble line of work? Police departments and State Police barracks should have adequate supervision in reviewing cases, arrests, and documentation to be able to catch these bad apples.

I have a unique perspective as I am a licensed clinical social worker with an undergraduate and Criminal Justice and Criminology. Personally, I have many questions about the efficacy of policies being introduced here. I would like to know how are the police going to decide if a social worker is more important to send to a call versus a police officer? I need it clarified if this is for 911 calls or for routine

calls only. And I would like to know who in the police department has the ability or the training to determine what is clinical versus what is not clinical. Again, I am for social workers and police departments and have been making this known amongst family and friends for many years but I have deep concerns. I can't begin to imagine the amount of personal liability insurance that social workers will have to purchase to be able to fill this role. We are not trained for self defense. What happens if de-escalation fails? Will we be getting sued too? Who has our backs?

I would also like to know who are the other bodies are who will determine what constitutes appropriate crowd control measures? Do those individuals have law-enforcement backgrounds? Or are they political appointees? These are all legitimate and important questions to ask that I am not seeing answers to. I appreciate the overuse of things such as Terry stops by police officers however when it comes to probable cause in pulling over a motor vehicle, should we not take a moment to reflect back to see how many violent criminals have been caught due to 'routine' motor vehicle searches?

This bill is effectively stripping police powers, nevermind police protections. I understand that we don't want to see as a society the militarization of police officers however the police in the various towns and cities need to have the appropriate equipment and supplies to respond to the threats in their specific areas. Let us not forget that the public is in danger when the police are not able to protect us because they lack the appropriate equipment to respond to a situation.

We should be focusing on adding funding to police departments in the form of competency trainings, cultural diversity trainings, not just on implicit bias.

A lot of what has been mentioned is already occurring in departments.

Our State needs to do better than this. Our safety depends on it.

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