

Good morning.

I would like to start by showing my support for holding police officers found guilty of civil rights violations accountable. Nobody dislikes bad police officers more than good police officers.

With that being said, a number of the proposals submitted in the new bill do not accomplish that goal. In fact, it makes it more dangerous for police officers to do their job in an effective manner. Removing qualified immunity, changing the standard for deadly use of force, creating a civilian review board, and requiring officers to hold their own liability insurance, to name a few, would be detrimental to police and to the public. Not only are these proposals an unfair burden on police officers today who have done nothing but carry out their duties with professionalism and integrity, but it deters qualified applicants from attempting to land a job in this career. Not only will you continue to see a decline in qualified police applicants, but I would also imagine a large spike in police officers retiring or leaving the profession. Police officers are required to make split second decisions, an overwhelming vast majority of those being correct. Wrong decisions will be made if hesitation becomes the new normal in policing, which is an unfair risk to people's lives and safety.

These proposals have the exact opposite impact on policing than what they were originally intended. Knee jerk reactions to swiftly and hastily change police policies will do nothing but negatively impact police officers and the communities in which they serve. Policies such as these increase the risk that I won't make it home to my family at the end of my shift, which I tend to believe politicians care less and less about.

Any elected official who votes in favor of this bill has absolutely no regard for the police officers who risk their lives on a daily basis, or for the safety of the public. Please do not vote for this bill.

Thank you