

Right now, writing this email, I am sad. Not only because this is even a proposal, but for the state of our country.

As a mom I am sad.. first because I was raised in a family of law enforcement at a time when the profession was not only supported but respected. When citizens had consideration for the difficult situations that our officers are faced with daily and took a stand to support right from wrong.

Secondly I am sad because my children never saw color, their view right now is perfect, as most officers would agree. They believe all people are the same. True wealth is a semblance of your values; it's within you to decide what those are. It's a stance to make hard choices, to reflect upon those choices once you make them and encourage change when choices you made don't align with who you want to be. Police officers have been the advocate of those values to our youth from the start. They are the change. Police officers have to not only live those values everyday, but have the fortitude to look within and realign when necessary.

I am a nurse. I hope that when I'm at your bedside you feel I'm there because I care. It's the same way I hope that some day you meet a police officer in a time of fear and hope they are there for you as they've always been for me.

I've always been proud to say my dad, uncle and brother are police officers. And I can tell you this is not justice. I can also say whole heartedly that I would not wish this profession upon anyone. Filled with endless difficult choices, heart ache and disrespect. Some how each day they put on their uniforms, unsupported and stand with the people who disrespect them. What could be more disheartening? How can this be legislation to support? I say no.

This is not change.

Officers need to feel supported in this moment. There is a way to acknowledge the injustice of George Floyd without revoking our support to our officers.

Sadly I think the biggest thing we've lost in this world is the worth of family. It's the building blocks of the world. The ones who will call you out, add suggestion and push you tirelessly to be better, all out of love. Because they want what's best for you. The world needs a dose of family. Family comes together. Family fights harder. People work harder when family is at the forefront. And one feels responsible to not let that down. Our officers are our family, it's time we stand behind them.

All lives matter and all deserve better.
Our history unlearned will be history repeated.

Sincerely,
Kristen Bakula

Sent from my iPhone