

Dear Sirs and Madams,

I'm writing today with concerns regarding the "Police Accountability Draft Bill" that is being presented to the committee. It is my belief that components of this bill put the safety of the police officer, as well as the general public at risk.

Some of those sections include blocking police departments from obtaining/using military designed equipment because some essential and life saving equipment is designed by the military and would thus no longer be accessible to the police.

Establishment of a civilian review board could be dangerous because civilians generally do not understand the stresses and life or death split second decisions that need to be made in the line of duty by police officers. This may be akin to a bus driver telling a surgeon how they should have performed an operation. Professionals should review professionals.

The last topic I will address concern over is the potential use of social workers to respond to certain police calls. Determining if a police call could be a daunting task and if all facts are not obtained, this could result in an extremely dangerous situation that may result in death to the social worker or those at the scene.

Lastly, as a broader concern, many of these proposed changes will require additional funding to the government and the police departments in order for them to be put into practice, funds that are sorely lacking given the economic conditions of the state. Implementing such changes without regards for financial ramifications would be reckless.

Should you have further questions for me, please contact me at the information below.

Regards,
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