

testimony on Police Reform Law

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Members of the Qualified Immunity Commission,

I am writing in support of *abolishing* qualified immunity in Massachusetts.

The odd construction of this privilege, protecting potentially abusive use of force by officers, is dangerous and corrosive to any efforts to build trust between our communities and the police. It undermines what should be our priority to encourage minimal use of force. It sabotages efforts to strengthen police accountability. It puts police above the law.

In short, it moves us in the wrong direction as we all try to find a model of public safety that relies on force as a last resort. It depletes city and town resources that are spent compensating victims of police violence. It removes an important guardrail that can protect overpoliced communities.

Please use the opportunity afforded by the Qualified Immunity Commission to get rid of qualified immunity in Massachusetts.

Thank you for your consideration,

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