

End Qualified Immunity Now!

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To: Manning, Jacqueline O. (HOU) <Jacqueline.O.Manning@mahouse.gov>

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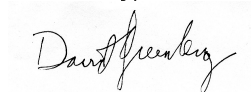
Dear Ms. Manning,

I am submitting this written testimony to the Legislature's Special Commission on Qualified Immunity. I strongly believe that qualified immunity must be abolished. Qualified immunity fosters an environment where the police feel empowered to violate people's rights with the knowledge they will face few consequences. For decades, the doctrine has shielded police officers and other government employees from being held responsible for all sorts of malfeasance. Qualified immunity makes it nearly impossible for individuals to sue public officials by requiring proof that they violated "clearly established law."

This behavior is in direct contradiction to the rights guaranteed under the Constitution, erodes relationships with the community and diminishes the system's credibility. As we have seen time and time again, under qualified immunity, lives can be taken with impunity. The abolishment of qualified immunity is needed to ensure that police are held accountable after they violate the constitutional rights of citizens. It's past time to end this doctrine once and for all.

For further information, I suggest that Commission members review the [Ending Qualified Immunity Act](#) legislation put forth by our own Congresswoman, Rep. Ayanna Pressley.

Sincerely,



David Greenberg
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