

## Written Testimony re: Qualified Immunity Committee

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

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Ms. Manning -

Please accept this testimony in advance of the meeting of the Qualified Immunity COmmittee meeting August 20, 2021.

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Members of the Qualified Immunity Commission,

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

Cases like the tasing of Judith Gray in Athol and murder of Eurie Stamps in Framingham illustrate how qualified immunity, granted in both cases, embolden police to act in ways that constitute excessive violence. This erodes trust between our communities and police, and the police are seen as a threat rather than agents that protect and serve.

When financial settlements are reached, the settlements do not materially impact the officers themselves. Massachusetts cities and towns spend millions to compensate victims of police violence.

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

Thank you for your consideration and your service to the Commonwealth.

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