



December 20, 2020

Governor Charlie Baker  
Massachusetts State House  
Office of the Governor  
24 Beacon Street, Room 280  
Boston, MA 02133

**Re: Police Reform Bill (S.2963)**

Dear Governor Baker:

Amplify Latinx and Lawyers for Civil Rights jointly write to urge you to restore key provisions to the Police Reform Bill (S.2963).

**Amplify Latinx** is a non-partisan, collaborative movement whose mission is to build Latinx economic and political power by significantly increasing Latinx civic engagement, economic opportunity and leadership representation across sectors. Amplify Latinx serves as a leading voice and advocate for Latinx communities across Massachusetts. Amplify Latinx is deeply committed to advancing racial justice.

**Lawyers for Civil Rights** was founded to marshal the legal resources of the private bar to address ongoing civil rights challenges. More than five decades later, there is still a critical need for legal advocacy coupled with community-based activism to address stark disparities in policing, particularly surrounding violent and fatal incidents disproportionately affecting Black and Latinx lives. The video recorded lynching of George Floyd in Minneapolis amply demonstrates this crisis. The lack of justice for the shooting of Terrence Coleman in Boston confirms this disturbing trend. The racial profiling and unlawful seizure of Marvin Henry in Needham further illustrates that even suburban communities are not immune from discriminatory law enforcement practices. Altogether, these alarming incidents of police misconduct in the Commonwealth militate strongly in favor of enacting a meaningful and robust police reform bill.

On behalf of the Black and Latinx communities we represent, Lawyers for Civil Rights and Amplify Latinx jointly urge you to support stronger regulations for the use of force by **restoring key standards and definitions for use of force** to S.2963.

We also urge you to **return use of force regulatory powers to the Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) commission** because we cannot rely on law enforcement officials to police themselves. The development of training programs and regulations should be managed by a civilian-controlled commission, not by law enforcement personnel. Since Massachusetts is one of only four states without a POST commission, it is critical not only to create this important commission, but also to meaningfully empower it.

Sincerely,

Rosario Ubiera-Minaya  
Amplify Latinx

Iván Espinoza-Madrigal  
Lawyers for Civil Rights

Cc: Massachusetts Senate President Karen Spilka  
Speaker of the House of Representatives Robert DeLeo  
Massachusetts Black and Latino Legislative Caucus