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September 3, 2020

Representative Sarah Copeland-Hanzas, Chair – House Government Operations
Representative Maxine Grad, Chair – House Judiciary
Vermont State House
115 State Street
Montpelier, Vermont 05633-5301

Dear Respective Committee Chairs:

I have served as a proud member of Vermont's Law Enforcement Community for over 30 years and currently serve as one of the Director's at the Vermont Police Academy. I have been a law enforcement Use-of-Force Trainer since 1992 and in that capacity, I have had the responsibility and great privilege to train law enforcement professionals for decades, not only in Vermont, but throughout the United States and abroad. With honor and appreciation, you have afforded me the opportunity to testify in your respective committees in the past and I would again appreciate an opportunity to speak relative to current legislation that in my view, would significantly impact Vermont's law enforcement community and potentially place Vermonters and our community guardians at risk. When I say at risk, I mean that quite literally in a physical sense. There are, in my opinion, portions of these pieces of legislation that are authored in a manner that will without doubt create confusion, cloud clarity, and encourage hesitation in potentially life-threatening situations. Portions of these pieces of legislation may also open the door for an even more aggressive police response in certain circumstances.

I would also like to bring to your attention that Use-of-Force Training at the Vermont Police Academy is a gold standard that has never feared continual evolution in an effort remain current, agile, and robust. In October 2017, some of the most prominent and respected law enforcement entities in the country, to include CALEA (*the premiere law enforcement accreditation organization*) authored a document titled National Consensus Policy and Discussion Paper for Use-of-Force. When I first became aware of this document and read it for the first time, I was proud to realize Vermont had already been adhering to the document's recommendations for best practices and beyond. We have worked with tremendous alacrity to train Vermont's police professions to strict legal guidelines, coupled with high ethical and moral standards. I would submit this document to you (*see attached*) for your perusal, as I support its content and recommendations. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,



Drew Bloom
Director of Administration & Compliance

