



WAYNE STATE
Office of the President

June 10, 2020

The Honorable Graham Filler
Chair, Judiciary Committee
P.O. Box 30014
Lansing, MI 48909-7514

Dear Chairman Filler,

On behalf of our students, faculty, and leaders, Wayne State University is pleased to express support for Senate Bill 945 (Irwin) and House Bill 5837 (Peterson), which seek to strengthen community-police relations and reduce excessive use of force by police officers through enhanced training opportunities.

Wayne State University (WSU), founded in 1868 as the Detroit Medical College, is Michigan's third largest university with our main campus located in the heart of Detroit. As a public, urban university known for academic and research excellence, success across a diverse student body, and meaningful engagement in its urban community, our values guide our mission. We believe in collaboration, integrity, innovation, excellence, diversity and inclusion.

WSU is a leader in campus safety and law enforcement best practices. The WSU Police Department has been recognized as an exemplary agency with excellent relationships throughout our campus, Midtown, and downtown. Further, WSU has been named one of the 50 safest college campuses in the country by BestColleges.com and use of Clery Act data analysis. We continue to look for ways to share our best practices with others, and grow our ability to create the most inclusive and safe communities.

WSU is committed to promoting best practices in law enforcement, both by supporting opportunities to collaborate with the legislature to craft sound policy and by leading training on our own campus as evidenced by the establishment of the National De-escalation Training Center (NDTC). The NDTC will foster positive interactions with citizens and reduce the number of needless and tragic encounters that result in injuries and deaths to citizens, particularly black Americans, and police officers. The requirements set forth in SB 945 (Irwin) will greatly benefit the law enforcement community and the general public, and will complement the work we will do at the NDTC.



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We strongly support Senate Bill 945 (Irwin) and House Bill 5837 (Peterson), and we believe the passage of this legislation will improve police practices, community relations, and reduce physical harm to individuals throughout our state.

Thank you for considering the legislation, and please feel free to reach out to Vice President of Government and Community Affairs Patrick O. Lindsey at Patrick.Lindsey@wayne.edu should you have any questions about our position or WSU's impact throughout Michigan.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Roy Wilson".

M. Roy Wilson
President