From: <u>Jacquelyn Benson</u>

To: <u>DOJ: Commission on Law Enforcement Accountability</u>

Subject: Testimony for NH Commission on Law Enforcement Accountability, Community and Transparency

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sender.

Thanks for accepting remote testimony for this meeting. As a New Hampshire citizen, I appreciate your consideration of the following:

- 1) Trauma and mental health screening should be considered on par in importance with physical health screenings for officers. Check-ins should be done annually. I also believe the commission should encourage NH's police departments to adopt a strict policy of trauma screenings with a trained professional following any office's exposure to an exceptionally violent incident on the job. Police trauma and susceptibility to post traumatic stress disorder is real. The men and women putting their lives on the line for our communities deserve to have their mental health supported, and a prevailing police culture that values 'toughness' stigmatizes seeking this help voluntarily.
- 2) New Hampshire should do a better job of collecting demographic data about police stops and arrests at both the local and state level. This data should be made available to the public to ensure accountability.
- 3) The commission should recommend all NH police departments institute a "no chokeholds" rule.

Thank you.

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