

07/22/2020 Joint Committee Meeting of Courts of Justice and Public Safety Committee

First Name	Last Name	Organization	Residence	Topic of Interest	Written Feedback
Laurel	Kent		Great Falls	Civilian Review Boards and Decertification of Police	Local Civilian Review Boards must be given subpoena powers. We need to strengthen the ability to remove problem officers from the police force. If fired, they should have their license pulled and be on a list that alerts other jurisdictions that they have been fired for cause.
Bill	Peabody		SPRINGFIELD	Police reforms	Recruitment has been difficult for all counties and cities in pre-covid,pre-riot times. In previous years only 4 of 100 applicants were employable. This is Fairfax County where police get \$87,000 per year average pay and violent crime is very low. After the reforms, the applicants will be of lower quality. Who wants to get pelted with bottles and spit on? They will hide from crime and be hesitant to use force when necessary. In the movie A Clockwork Orange, the thugs became the police as there was no other employer to take them. A similar dystopia awaits. Keep the felony assault protection. Ditch the union protection. FDR warned us about government unions.
Dhruv	Rungta	Virginia Students Against Rubber Bullets	Charlottesville	Law Enforcement use of Rubber Bullets (Kinetic Impact Projectiles)	We call upon Virginia Legislature to ban the use of rubber bullets and other Kinetic Impact Projectiles (KIPs) by law enforcement for crowd control in the state of Virginia. Over the past few months, Americans have protested nation-wide due to the senseless killings of George Floyd and Breonna Taylor and many more by police officers. During these protests, police have utilized rubber bullets as a tactic to disperse crowds; however, according to the non-profit Physicians for Human Rights (https://phr.org/our-work/resources/lethal-in-disguise/) and the ACLU (https://www.aclu.org/sites/default/files/field_document/kinetic_impact_projectiles.pdf), rubber bullets are not appropriate weapons for use in crowd-control settings. The non-lethal status of these weapons has been called into question, given they can cause blindness, bone fractures, severe organ damage, and death. A meta-analysis in the British Medical Journal (https://bmjopen.bmj.com/content/7/12/e018154) found that 15% of patients treated for KIP injuries were permanently disabled and 3% of patients died from their wounds. Rubber bullets can be inaccurate when fired from long distances and lethal when fired at close range. Other countries such as the UK have discontinued the use of these weapons due to their questionable safety. This would be a step towards ending police brutality and ensuring our constitutional right to peacefully protest. Join us in calling for immediate action to ban the use of rubber bullets by police in Virginia.
Elizabeth	Carr	the people	Richmond	public safety	Considering character limit, I will paraphrase my points, please excuse any lapse in grammatical correctness in favor of character brevity. PD Internal affairs is comprised entirely of police, so how can they say they're "unbiased" about assessing complaints? Put multiple civilians on every internal affairs committee. Teachers must maintain teaching license, renewing with effort every 5 yrs (out of their own pockets), so too should cops have to do this, includes: passing tests on new (relevant) laws each year, completing a certain # of professional development curriculum hours in 5 yrs, maintaining certification in essential skills. Military to PD job transition needs to have specialized training to deprogram military responses in favor of community responses. Cops should be able to be fired permanently (FP), no rehiring anywhere in VA, reasons to be given in live meeting, some examples to follow: Cops who turn off, tamper with, fail to turn on, or otherwise obscure bodycam/dashcams or the subsequent upload of the footage should be FP. Cops who tell other officers to turn off cams also FP. Cop testimony is null and void in the absence of their own footage. Cops who deliberately cover badge numbers should also be considered for FP. Violations committed by LEO should be public record. Cops who confiscate, destroy, or tamper with a civilian's phone should be FP, cell footage is for OUR safety. If LEO is found to be in KKK, a historically murderous hate group, this is conflict of interest and the LEO should be FP. Please double check that VA is not one of the states that has a "legal loophole" that inadvertently allows cops to rape detainees. If loophole still exists, close it (possible federal grant for doing so).
Tara	Courtland		Henrico	Police reform	Like many white people in Virginia, I had no idea how widespread a problem police brutality was until recently. The actions of Richmond police and Virginia State Police have left me sickened and angry. Please revoke the right of police to issue "unlawful assembly" orders; please revoke their qualified immunity; please revoke all laws that allow felony assault charges when an officer is not hurt; please demilitarize them; please do something real to reform the criminal justice system that supports police brutality. They are supposed to protect the community and residents; what they have turned into is an organization that tries to brutally force respect for its members. We never wanted that.
Paul	Bowman		North Chesterfield	Police reform	I know that you are eager to enact legislation regarding police reform. Please keep in mind that you have been hearing from a small number of Virginians who have been very vocal in their demonstrations. There are large numbers of us who do not want police departments to be defunded. Your decisions will impact all citizens. I fear that many of us have been apathetic and not willing to engage any of our elected officials. I wanted to be sure that I give voice to my concerns. Thanks for your consideration.
Emily	Noite-Shotwell		Henrico	Police reform	I request the following: -Revoke qualified immunity for police -Revoke the right of police to declare an unlawful assembly -Demilitarize the police -Revoke laws that allow for felony assault charges when an officer isn't injured Police have too much power and are no longer protecting us. They are now working against citizens. This must end. We will never heal as a country of changes like what's requested above don't happen.
Dee	Courtland		Henrico	Police reform	We need police reform! Fund social service orgs and non profits, require licensure for social workers, reduce police response to violent crime only. Revoke qualified immunity for police; revoke the right of police to declare an unlawful assembly; demilitarize the police; revoke laws that allow for felony assault charges when an officer isn't injured. Keep everyone safe. Stop tear gassing and firing rubber bullets at protestors.
Stuart	Carwile		Crozet	Police Reform	Revoke qualified immunity for police; revoke the right of police to declare an unlawful assembly; demilitarize the police; revoke laws that allow for felony assault charges when an officer isn't injured (anyone who struggles against an arrest can be charged with felony assault. It's a minimum six month sentence. Thank You for your time. Stuart Carwile
Kevin	Finity		Richmond City	Police Reform	Revoke qualified immunity for police; revoke the right of police to declare an unlawful assembly; demilitarize the police; revoke laws that allow for felony assault charges when an officer isn't actually injured.

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Melissa	Moore		Mechanicsville	Police Reform	
Jennay	Shanklin		Colonial beach	Earned Good Time bill	<p>If we admit the system is flawed then the prisoners that have been victim to things such as Jury sentencing need relief! Why do we keep ducking this. This needs to happen now. Let the prisoners earn their way out earlier if their behavior calls for it! PASS DON SCOTTS EARNED GOOD TIME BILL NOW.</p>
Jen	Russo		Henrico County	Police reform	<p>I am requesting: Revoke qualified immunity for police Create position of crisis intervention role trained to de-escalate Revoke the right of police to declare an unlawful assembly Demilitarize the police Revoke laws that allow for felony assault charges when an officer isn't injured Increase/Redirect funding for mental health services for citizens and officers in crisis Increase training for crisis response for all officers regardless of position/tenure Require annual crisis/mental health training hours for all officers Automatic consequences when domestic violence charges are filed against officers Anger management courses/interventions/evaluations required to be completed at least annually.</p>
april	johnson		richmond	police reform	<p>I am writing to ask for: - An end to qualified immunity - Demilitarization of police - Redirecting funds from police to other social services and expanding the training required for first responders - Removing the option for police to declare an "unlawful assembly" - Use of weapons by police against peaceful protestors - An end to felony assault options when no police are injured</p>
Sam	Mertz		Richmond	Police brutality	<p>On June 15, 2020 I was practicing my constitutional rights of free speech and the right to assemble. While standing in a crowd of people near the police precinct, while on my phone, the phone was shot out of my hand. It was head level and struck my hand while the person next to me said they felt something hit their leg. I have also been subject to tear gas on Multiple occasions, pepper spray, use of flash bangs and rubber bullets. When the police shot for my phone they very easily could have missed and hit me or someone in the head in the crowd. What if I moved? Why am I being tear gassed when it is a war crime and illegal? Why will the Richmond police not release how much money they are spending on their airplane surveillance? Not knowing is not acceptable when the public pays the bill. And why won't the police wear masks when they terrorize us? It's a pandemic and not safe for us or them. Thank you</p>
Mary	Flournoy		Sandston	Police Reform	<p>If you are a resident of Virginia, please click the link and submit a law letter to revoke qualified immunity for police, revoke the right of police to declare an unlawful assembly, demilitarize the police; revoke laws that allow for felony assault charges when an officer isn't injured (anyone who struggles against an arrest can be charged with felony assault. It's a minimum six month sentence. In the case of the protestors, several cops grab one, pounce on them and then charge them with felony assault if one of them gets elbowed in the struggle).</p>
Tom	Barbour	The Virginia Holistic Justice Initiative	City of Richmond	A Specific Proposal to End the Incarceration of Non-Violent Black, Brown, and Poor Virginians	<p>Virginia's prosecutors do not have to prove, nor are our judges or juries required to find, that a person poses an unmanageable risk of danger to themselves or the public before they are sentenced to jail or prison.</p> <p>Despite versions of this incarceration standard already being employed in the Commonwealth's criminal bond hearings and civil commitment proceedings, Virginia's criminal sentencing dramatically widens the net of incarceration by embracing a punishment paradigm.</p> <p>Jail and prison sentences are meted out on calculations of moral culpability rather than violent risk mitigation. Within this culpability model, widely varying personal views on morality bias the sentencing preferences of local prosecutors, judges, and juries and drive the incarceration of non-violent people in Virginia.</p> <p>And our Black, brown, and poor Virginians suffer disproportionately for it.</p> <p>The Virginia Holistic Justice Initiative (www.vahji.com) is working to end the incarceration of non-violent people by advocating for reform that addresses this real problem as it exists:</p> <p>We urge the General Assembly to explore the notion of installing this threshold sentencing question in Virginia's criminal code by an argued, evidentiary hearing, modeled on the standards within Virginia's already operable bail and civil commitment statutes, in order to leverage these due process principles for the protection of our Black, brown, and poor Virginians from the involuntary and disproportionate deprivation of their liberty:</p> <p>Whether the incarceration of an individual is necessary to mitigate an unreasonable danger to the person or public, as no other condition or combination of conditions will reasonably assure their safety.</p>
Juanita	Belton		BROCKTON	HB1532,good time credits, parole	<p>It has been 25 years since parole was abolished and good time was done away with. We know from many studies, documentaries and the very people who signed these tough on crime bills that this was not the right course of action to deal with crime. We also see how suchs laws have disproportionately affected black and brown people and families, taking mothers and fathers away for years without a chance for rehabilitation or redemption. Forgiveness, second chances, opportunity is what free people get daily without question yet we treat the incarcerated as if they do not deserve what get EVERYDAY. It is not fair, just, and it should not be based on violent vs non violent labels. We know all to well and have seen all the news stories and movies a/b men mostly black men who've been exonerated after decades for VIOLENT crimes they were convicted of and do not do. OR the countless young black men like my boyfriend who signed a plea deal at 18 for 45 years of his life b/v he didn't turn states witness, was black, in the south, alone, and a white male doing a crime with him was killed. He took the wrap. FIRST time offender, no priors, sits still at 40 years old in prison having run out of programsto do. HE deserves a chance to come home, earn good time for growing up and rehabilitating himself despite the odds in prison stacked against him and others. He is labeled violent because of his crime. He isn't a violent person. THESE MEN AMD WOMEN who have proven themselves worthy ofa second chance should get that. God is a forgiving God, how dare we act greater than him and treat others as if they no longer are human for wrongs they have committed. Say yes to HB1532 NOW FOR ALL PRISONERS. Lastly Virginia parole board needs an overhaul</p>

Jeff	Ewing		Irvington, Lancaster	Criminal Justice and Policing	<p>Mandatory minimum sentences are inherently wrong. Let the judges decide on the punishments. This goes especially for assault on a police officer. It is too easy to have the police abuse this law.</p> <p>we need to re-train police in the use of non-lethal defenses, crowd and riot control, and encourage neighborhood policing where the police are considered helpful members of society, not a pack of racist thugs who live in fear and racially profile our citizens.</p> <p>Prove to the citizens of this state that you represent all the people regardless of color. De-militarize the police. Revise the police indictment procedures so bad cops go to jail, not get off with a warning.</p>
Patricia	Martin		Chesapeake	criminal justice reform and police	<p>All police should have body cameras to protect citizens and to protect themselves.</p> <p>Police training and support should be increased.</p> <p>Counseling should be offered to all officers to provide them with the emotional and practical support they need to endure the stresses of the job.</p> <p>Any assault, verbal or physical, perpetrated against a police officer or police property, including cars and police stations, should be a felony. No person assaulting an officer or police property should post less than \$5,000 bail to be released from jail.</p> <p>Police operations should be expanded and fully funded as we are now basically in a state of war against insurgents from within America who have stated that it is their aim to destroy our government and our way of life. Citizens are increasingly unsafe in their own neighborhoods, cities, schools, houses of worship, and businesses. Police presence in communities and on our city streets should be significantly expanded, particularly after dark, as that is when most of the violent looting, rioting, and assaults are taking place.</p> <p>Police should be protected with all of the equipment they need, including body armor, riot shields, batons, pepper spray, and rubber and real bullets for their guns.</p> <p>DEFEND THE POLICE. PROTECT THE CITIZENS.</p>
Bryce	Leonardo		Chesapeake, VA	Criminal Justice	<p>While some changes are needed I request Defunding the police not being one. As prior military I know the importance of training and with the under funding, under manning, and under support our police have they are not able to have proper training. Training in hand to hand combat would be huge maybe work out a deal with a local Martial Arts school to pay for them to train so they can become more proficient in Non lethal forms of defense and apprehension. Also start supporting police, have conversations between the police and community leaders to work on building the trust between the communities and the police. Lastly I call for the silence of Senator Lucas due to her involvement in the tearing down of the statue in Portsmouth that lead to a man being hospitalized in critical condition, due in some part to her emboldening the mob by telling Portsmouth police that they would not arrest anyone.</p>
Amber	Beichler	Virginia Justice Democrats	Herndon	Criminal Justice & Police Reforms	<p>We support VLBC's list of priorities to be addressed during the special session. https://www.vablackcaucus.com/news/c/0/i/47508787/vlbc-special-session-priorities?fbclid=IwAR0LM74U4Z53ZmzyifldtSRqSe0zxtvAhpwyWXXfk61FNU7yGrTt0HG47k This includes: End pretextual policing—the fake reasons police cite when they initiate nonconsensual encounters with citizens they wish to investigate (who are disproportionately people of color). Enact an authorizing statute permitting localities to start robust civilian oversight of law enforcement, with auditing authority and subpoena power. Legalize marijuana. Get police out of schools. Reform egregious procedural injustice in the criminal Code by giving defendants a choice about jury sentencing. And repeal all mandatory minimums, not just for nonviolent offenses, but all offenses—especially the assault on law enforcement statute, which has been weaponized by bad cops and overzealous prosecutors to punish “contempt of cop,” not actual violent behavior, and in many cases is used to cover up for police misconduct.</p>
Jennifer	Surratt		City of Richmond	Defund the Police	<p>I am writing to encourage our legislature to take a frank and in depth look at policing and its costs to our Commonwealth. The time is now to examine the very real impact of policing on BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Color) folks. The costs to our society cannot be measured only financially. We have an obligation to investigate the human costs - the loss of fathers, sisters, friends through police brutality or placement into our justice system. We have better ways to address the needs of our community without heavy police involvement. We have overinflated the budgets and roles of police - and given them authority in matters over which they have no expertise nor skill. We need to divest our money from the police and begin to fund those areas which may have greater impact to stable and thriving communities such as housing, food access, and mental health support. When we ignore the basic needs of our community, when we deny people their humanity - and then punish them for their needs - we create a cycle of violence. We create the safety issues. We create the volatility that we then say "this requires police." It is our communal responsibility to take care of our fellow citizen. As an example, if you look at white communities in upper economic areas they are not made safer by police, they are made safer by a well resourced and vast social fabric that ensures the humanity of neighbors and contributes to the greater good. I cannot state clearly enough that we are at a critical place in our history, and the time is now to full examine how we can use our resources and money to promote public safety and justice outside of policing. Thank you for your time.</p>
Lawrence	Constantine	Mr.	Petersburg James City County	Reforming Virginia Together	<p>Applaud effort of Delegates Herring and Hope to solicit input from VA. Citizens on Criminal Justice and policing systems. I would offer the following: 1. We need to address the cause not the after effect. 2. Give minorities the option of school choice. 3. Support/Fund organizations as Boys/Girls Club. 4. Reinforce the importance/need for 2 parent households. 5. Identify and address the numerous health issues within communities of color. 6. Enforce the rule of law across the board (rioting/looting/defacing/damaging public/private property not tolerated or punished). 7. Rework police Union agreements to 3 strike rule on proven misconduct. 8. Require Mandatory use of body cams. 9. Fully fund police rgmts identified by SMEs. 10. Adhere to the recommendations/advice by bipartisan committees formed to provide input. 11. Put proposed changes into amendments for general population to decide rather than rely on a MANDATE resulting from election results with less than 30% participation. 12. Provide equal representation throughout the State and not let most populace areas dictate State policy/law. Finally, symbolism does matter. Be HONEST with the public. Saying monuments were removed and stored/warehoused for future consideration was not factual when they are seen laying on the Wastewater Treatment Grounds. Is this subtle symbolism??? Appreciate the chance to comment.</p>
Ken	Parsons	none		Protecting our police officers	<p>Please continue to support our police officers, they need to know you have their back. Do not lessen the charge when someone assaults a police officer. That would not be an improvement on anything that we have now. Just leave it alone, please.</p>
Vassanthi	Griffis		Culpeper	Penalties, Removal of SRO's and Cutting Police Department Budget	<p>As a citizen of Virginia, I am writing to strongly oppose any reduction of penalty for assaulting law enforcement, removal of SRO's in schools and cutting any police department budget.</p> <p>It is imperative to keep law and order in Virginia (and across the nation for that matter), and not allow criminals to run the streets. Often times, protests are not peaceful, which disrupts the message. With lack of police, being safe at home is not safe at all. I urge you to seriously consider what many Virginians are concerned about when it comes to public safety. As a minority and a first generation family in America, I encourage public safety and rights of law abiding citizens as priority. Anything less is unacceptable. Thank you for your time. Please for the safety of our children and seniors, do NOT defund the police, remove SRO's and reduce penalty for assaulting law enforcement.</p>
Connie	Knight		Albemarle	Police policy	<p>To defund, remove resource officers, decrease penalties for assaulting an officer is absurd.. Personal citizens need officers on an emergency. Students need officer present to deter bad/criminal behavior. To reduce penalties for assaulting an officer is asking for them to be attacked as there are little to no consequences.</p> <p>I had an emergency Sunday night driving as I was being targeted by a vehicle that clearly had mischief intent. Had it not been for 911 and the officer in route to help me, I don't know what I would have done.</p> <p>Put yourself in a worse case scenario and you are in harm's way...WHO ARE YOU going to call to help? Your kid gets attacked at school, who is going to protect your child? Use some common sense and put the political agenda aside.. Keep your family, your home, your community and our officers safe!! Thank you.. Connie Knight</p>
Lois	Westerlund		Palmyra	proposals to defund the police	<p>Do not let the wicked and wrong actions of a few rob the rest of us, your fellow-citizens, your neighbors, your family of the protection of law enforcement.</p> <p>Please.</p>

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Thomas	Centrella	Mr.	Front Royal	Hearings on Police	<p>If you truly believe in equal justice under law, you will help the police to improve, not tie their hands behind their backs and expect them to still protect us. Remember, they are here to protect and serve, and so are you. By upholding law and order, you protect the rights of the people. Please do the right thing.</p>
Karen	Causey		Virginia Beach	Police reform	<p>Hello,</p> <p>I have been doing research and educating myself on policing in the state of Virginia. I believe there should be better data collected across the state regarding use of force and civilian complaints. Though Virginia Beach appears to have had a citizen review board for a number of years it looks like the type that has no authority and was just put in place so that leadership could check a box. I would also like to see how many elementary, middle and high school kids are being detained or sent to juvenile prison. What areas in our state have the most traffic stops? Or the most civilian stops? Implicit bias training should be mandatory and should include an evaluation afterwards. We can do much better in our state and communities. Now is the time to make positive changes.</p> <p>Thank you</p>
Beverly	Conner		BROAD RUN	Police Reform Hearing	<p>I do NOT want the penalties for assaulting a police officer decreased. these men and women risk their lives every day to protect me and my family and knowing that they are trained to handle life and death situations i appreciate the fact that they should be able to defend their own lives when that situation should occur.</p> <p>Schools should have SROs as a deterrent to the current social environment that exists today. i feel much safer with a trained professional at the school.</p> <p>NEVER should we cut the police budget unless the Police Department recommends it. they need to be compensated for the dangerous work they do and maybe the budget should be increased for bonuses .</p> <p>I hope the message is clear that we law abiding citizens will always respect our officers... Politics should not play a part in our everyday lives. What is being fed to us right now courtesy of the advertising media is purely political. And with the violence being displayed in the inner cities, we need more law enforcement to protect the innocent.</p> <p>Thank you for the opportunity to be heard.</p> <p>Sincerely, One of the Silent Majority</p>
Kevin	Archambault		Powhatan	Police	<p>VSP and Richmond PD are some of the most professional LEOs in the world. Liberals and anarchists are taking the opportunity to gin-up problems where they don't exist.</p> <p>Yes, in areas of high crime will have more interaction with police because after-all; cops "police" where crime statistics dictate they should police! If communities want less interaction, they need less crime.</p> <p>Ill be damned if the grandma in her best Sunday hat gets rolled for her collection plate donation because of some phantom social justice mandate because of one bad cop that the entire country was just as pissed off at as the "community" he belonged to! We were ALL COMMUNITY after that, but anarchists that hate everything about America hijacked that incident as open season on police that have killed 18 LEOs, injured countless others and paralyzed one from the neck down. As Bruce Springsteen said in his song "Jungleland." ".....he wound up wounded, and not even dead. Tonight in jungle - land!"</p>
James	Tarr		Virginia beach	Defunding police and gun control	<p>I say we provide more resources and more police because this is never going to end!</p> <p>I am writing to request that our police departments in the state remain fully funded and increase training.</p> <p>Also defunding police jeopardizes all Virginians and the proposed gun laws crush law biding citizens rights and put everyone in danger from criminals .</p> <p>Therefore I urge support on these issues to protect the citizens of this state.</p>
Nathan	Szejniuk	NA	Troy	Policing and Assuring Public Safety with respect for Human Rights	<p>Dear Members and those listening to this reading - greetings:</p> <p>As a veteran (US Navy - Ret), I have visited many 2nd and 3rd world nations in addition to those in the 1st world. While our nation is in the grips of a crisis the desire to leave our streets and those most vulnerable abandon for lack of better and more engage positive community-base policing is not in keeping with the motto on the Virginia state seal - Sic semper tyrannis or So always (virtue defeats) tyrants. Mobs are tyrants!</p> <p>It is not virtuous for small children, babies really, to die in the streets as we have seen in recent weeks, at the hand of the lawless who don't respect the words for the protection of "We the people (all the people)..." to in fact assure that government can "... provide for the general welfare..." by "...providing for the common defense..." (aka police) by those so capably trained as to respect the human (aka civil) rights of everyone, such that the assurance of "...domestic tranquility..." is part of not only the ability to "...establish justice...", but to assure that once established such justice is both fair and transparent in its delivery.</p> <p>No human being should have treated as Mr. Floyd over a \$20 bill fake or not! The pure spite on the part of one police officer in Minneapolis and those who enabled his cruelty at the time by standing by is served by better training. When innocent people of color suffer in a lawless state at the whim of mob-rule, is that fair? Is that just? What about a "... people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances..." not by the government but by their fellow citizens?</p> <p>Where is their justice?</p> <p>Nate Szejniuk HMC (SW/AW), USN (Ret)</p>

Bucky	Walsh		Earlsville	Decreasing penalties for assault on Police Officers	<p>I am motivated to write to this committee first as the father of two police officers and the father-in-law of another, second as citizen of the Commonwealth, and third as a rational person.</p> <p>I am strongly opposed to decreasing the penalties in Virginia for assaulting a police officer. As a father, I want the maximum protection available under the law for my children. As a father-in-law, I am no less motivated.</p> <p>As a citizen of the Commonwealth, I rely upon our police to keep order when others would take it away. I expect our police to put themselves in harm's way to protect myself and other citizens. I want those who would break the law to recognize the authority of the police - to recognize that police are different from other citizens upon whom they might prey. Treating an assault upon police differently from an assault on a typical citizen is consistent with seeing them as special.</p> <p>As a rational person, it makes sense to me that if the police are called to break up an assault in progress, the only hope they have for a peaceful intervention is if the perpetrator recognizes that shifting the focus of their assault from their victim to the police is a bad idea and has more serious consequences. The perpetrator has already accepted the risk of being penalized for a simple assault. It offers the police more protection if there is a higher personal risk if they choose to assault the police. Also, an assault upon a typical citizen is an assault upon that citizen. An assault upon an officer in the performance of their duties is an assault upon the criminal justice system of the Commonwealth. It is a different crime and should be treated accordingly.</p>
Kevin sue	McCauley fuller		Greene County Midlothian	Protecting the Police	<p>I fully support the police force, increased funding for police departments, and increased penalties for assaulting police officers. I am against removing School Resource Officers from protecting schools. De-funding the police and consideration of reducing penalties for assaulting police officers is completely wrong.</p> <p>no police cuts.</p>
Margaret	Snyder		Fairfax	Weakening Police	<p>In light of the anarchy in major cities, I am opposed to weakening law enforcement in any way. The mayhem, arson, and looting that I am witnessing on newscasts is appalling and alarming. The current atmosphere of restricting law enforcement will only make things worse. I hope that our legislators will realize the importance of protecting their citizens. The concept of restricting law officers is emboldening criminals, gangs and anarchists.</p>
Janet	Bell		Spotsylvania	Police Officers	<p>I am against a changes that have to do with our Police Officers.</p> <p>Do no decrease penalties for assaulting a Police Officer.</p> <p>Need to increase penalties for assaulting a PO (it is a dangerous job). Increase Police Officers salaries.</p> <p>Do not remove the SRO's for our schools and make them less safe!</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Janet Bell</p>
Lester	Gabriel		Stafford	Regarding Law Enforcement	<p>I am opposed to any legislation that would reduce the penalties for assaulting law enforcement officers. Decisions regarding SRO's should be made at the local level. All law enforcement agencies should be required to review and update if necessary their use of force policies in an open and transparent manner.</p>
Jeff Claire	Moore Mclvain	NA	Albemarle Keswick	Legislative Hearings on Police	<p>I do not think penalties for assaulting a police officer should be decreased, SROs (School Resource Officers) should be removed from schools, or the Police budgets should be reduced.</p> <p>Police Officers put their lives in danger to protect us and deal with crime. Yes - they may need additional training, but if we want people to take these risks there needs to be some understanding and less judgement after the fact from the comfort of your living room or office. In general the vast majority of police are good and ethical people. Deal with the few bad exceptions, not the entire police force.</p>
Robert	Booth		Earlsville	Police	<p>An assault or attack on any living person should be a felony, with maximum penalty. We cannot descend into a lawless society allowing criminal behavior of any type.</p> <p>Please do not remove police officers from the schools. They provide the teachers students parents and staff an assurance of safety. They also refuse gang activity in schools .</p> <p>Also please do not reduce the penalty for assaulting a police officer. If you see the riots going on around and see the police assaulted with no penalty leading to anarchy and terror for the law abiding citizens.</p>
Nancy	Gibson		Albemarle	penalties for assaulting a	<p>Anyone with any common sense would never think this was a good idea. What possible good could come out of this!! Just insanity.</p>
Rebecca Kimberly	Sims Tate	fellow citizens	Albemarle Portsmouth	Current governing direction of the Commonwealth: Police and SROs	<p>I am beyond concerned with the Democratic agenda in Virginia. I oppose these:</p> <p>Late term / after birth / any stage of abortion.</p> <p>Defunding or diminishing any and all Police authority. Can we learn better methods, yes. Oppose removal of School SRO's.</p> <p>Removal or decreasing any right to own guns.</p> <p>Any and all actions effecting churches. Hands off dictating what can and cannot happen to people of faith.</p> <p>Get schools open in September for those that choose public education. Find teachers, even if brand new college grads to teach. If educators are smart enough to teach and run schools, they are smart enough to figure this out. Government must support these fools efforts any way needed.</p> <p>Turn Commonwealth back to Republican!! Thanks Rob and Bell family for your long commitment to us. Rob Bell for Governor!!</p>
Kimberly	Tate	fellow citizens	Portsmouth	Police and SROs	<p>Please do not cut, defund, or any thing else except give them better training and a raise!!</p>

Charles	Gorski		VIRGINIA BEACH	Defunding/removing police	Do not reduce penalties in assaulting police. Keep SRO's in school. This will embolden the criminals. Instead ride with a police person and see what really goes on. Who of you will step in front of a police person being attacked by a criminal?? Do not make this job more dangerous than it is already. Look at Portland, Chicago and Seattle. Is this what you want for all of us? Do you really think like that mayor that they will not come after you, guess again. Instead ask Police how you can best help them. There is always room for improvement, that goes for you all too! Do not make us like the areas that are controlled by gangsters. We all really want peace, prosperity for all of us. The blue line is basically good men and woman. Do no use what a few bad ones destroy them. They have PTSD caused by what they are subjected to. They are human too. In many of the democratic cities the tax base is being destroyed. I have seen a woman of color cry because they burned her store she shopped at. Why? If you really want to help, find out why each night on TV blacks are killing blacks. No one seems to want to deal with this. Why? Don't you care for the children in harms way? Why?? No politics but real reform that benefits all of us. Please listen to reason, not politics!! I really believe you all have a hidden agenda, which for most or all of us is bad, why else are you doing this!!
Stephanie	Edmondson		Mechanicsville	Police	Police need more pay and definitely more support. Rotation of duties and work locations could prevent burn out. Respect for all officers should be expected and demanded by the public. We cannot live in a lawless society where vigilantes rule. Race should never be an issue. It's horrifying and scary to see where our society is headed if we don't reign in this racism. When blacks make up only about 15 percent of the population and account for more than 50 percent of crime, there will always be the perception of bias, but I don't think there truly is. Its because of the Great Society that the democrats started with Lyndon Johnson...no fathers, keeping them in the projects and keeping them enslaved so they would vote for the democratic party. They have nothing to complain about. They get preferential treatment over whites in many areas, just because they're a minority. Indians, aka native Americans, in this country have way more to complain about as far as treatment. And taking down statues and renaming schools will not make any difference in how our society functions. Its just a minority group exerting their power by threats of violence. We are being held hostage by these communist radicals and police as well as the second amendment are our only defenses.
Elinor	Fischer		Sterling, VA	Cutting down on police protection	Doesn't anyone realize that cutting back on police funding and police protection provides an open season for crime? Do we want crime in our neighborhoods? While 1% of the police force may perpetrate a crime against a suspect, all the rest of the police are trying to provide safety and protection to all the citizens. We WANT and We NEED ALL the police protection we have. Thank you.
Lorene	Payne	Mrs.	WARRENTON	Meeting on Courts and changes in law.	I believe we are gifted with men and women that are willing to come forward and provide police protection for our communities, Anything that helps them should be provided. To Reduce the charges for an Assault on a police officer is unthinkable. I am opposed to any reduction. These men and women are in harms way everyday, and if you change this law you are giving those that are wrong does the right to hurt them without penalty. Leave this as it is. The SRO's in school take good staff away from what is needed on the streets and a police car parked at every school all day long is a waste of tax payers money. Cut the school budget and give more to community policing. That is where it is needed. Do not cut the police budget. Lorene Payne
Jeffrey	Ferrill		Albemarle County	7/22/20 Joint Committee Meeting of Courts of Justice	Dear Chair Person of the Committee, I am writing to express my concern regarding the possible changes in the State Code as it pertains to penalties for assaulting a police officer, removing SROs from schools, and cutting or reallocating law enforcement funds. No one can deny that in certain areas of the Commonwealth, there is a great deal of emotional non-violent and violent protests resulting from the totally unnecessary deaths of African Americans in other states. This has led to a heated debate in Virginia, and across America, resulting in highly emotional anti-law enforcement discussions. As a result law enforcement morale is at an all time low. I urge the committee to discuss the issues at hand and listen to all opinions. However, until the State and National debate calms down, please refrain from recommending any changes to change the current State Code. In my opinion, doing so will put all Virginia citizen's safety at risk and increase the crime/murder rates in the Commonwealth. The State must do everything possible to promote the rule of law. Respectfully, Jeffrey B Ferrill
John O.	Trammell		Stafford	Hearings on police policies and criminal justice	Various proposals have been announced by state legislators and local officials, including: * Decreasing penalties for assaulting a police officer. * Removing SROs (School Resource Officers) from schools. * Cutting the Police budget. All of these proposals are nonsensical. They reduce the ability of police officers and sheriff deputies to investigate crimes and enforce the laws of Virginia, to respond to emergency calls, to arrest and charge those who break the law, and to defend our vulnerable school children from gang activity and mass murder. The proposal to decrease penalties for assaulting a police officer would certainly make their job of law enforcement even more difficult and dangerous. To improve our law enforcement capabilities, we should provide more advanced training to new and veteran officers and increase salaries and benefits to attract and retain high quality law enforcement personnel. The vast majority of our police officers and deputies are decent men and women who do their job fairly and without discrimination. Why would you enact proposals to make it easier for criminals to commit crimes against our citizens and attack our police officers?

Thomas	Bates	A safe State of Virginia to raise my family and run my business.	Virginia Beach		<p>Stop scaring people this virus that is very avoidable. Mandate all to wear masks within 6 feet face to face for no more than 10 minutes, w/ no actual contact. If someone gets or gives a positive Covid 19 resulting from their actions, place them in self-quarantine 1st and on a roster; if they get or give + again a fine \$500; and third time one year in jail and \$1000 fine.</p> <p>Take unemployed & make them government tracers or Virus sterilizers, & cut the free money train and drain.</p> <p>Free Covid 19 testing until 2021.</p> <p>All groups to be separated out the immunodeficient or immuno-compromised from the virtual unaffected.</p> <p>Criminals back in prison bail again ASAP</p> <p>Peaceful protects by appointment granted legally , but if anyone who breaks the law, a gets arrested level 1, politely if they do so willingly, level II, if they resist, by any reasonable use of force, level III, If an officer orders "Stop it's the Police", and they do not; they deserve full force restraint .</p> <p>Attacks on cops gets level III, the full force of arrest.</p> <p>Indemnify the police before they all quit and use Sherriff dept. to single out the bad cops 1% .</p> <p>Get funding to allow testing to be virtually everywhere with 30 minute results.</p> <p>Indemnify business owners from huge law suits, unless gross negligence is found.</p> <p>Back to school ASAP</p>
Janice	Schell	N/A	Loudoun County	Police/SROs	<p>As a law abiding citizen of the Commonwealth of Virginia, I am writing to urge you not to cut funding for the police, and not to reduce the penalty for assaulting police. Our dedicated police men and women put their lives at risk every time they put on their uniform. We need to ensure that they know that we fully support them in their work and that we will not tolerate anyone assaulting them. Remember ... they are on the streets for us!</p> <p>I am also concerned about the push to remove SROs from public schools. What are people thinking?! With all of the school shootings in recent years why WHY?? -- would you want to remove them? Put the safety of our children first!</p> <p>Please do what is best for ALL of the citizens of the Commonwealth of Virginia and not the angry anti-American, anti-police, anti-Law crowd. You represent the law abiding citizens of Virginia, NOT those Marxist groups who, in many cases, are not even citizens of our Commonwealth. So JUST SAY NOT to the MARXISTS!!!</p>
Ann	Wood		Charlottesville	New laws putting more police in harms way and reducing funding/support of police	<p>A number of people killed by police that were not warranted, and in most cases appropriate action was taken against them. Unfortunately, in the hiring of officers, some want to have the authority to abuse people. More screening of new officers should be done. Some of the police schools have resorted to the "rambo" techniques which even ruins some would be good, fair officers. The Virginia State Police has the best training of officers, but some used by other police departments have watched too much TV. But the vast majority of the police are good officers dedicated to protection of people and property, but the media only gives press to the ones who should not be police officers in the first place. Now in the heat of the media frenzy the lawmakers are planning to weaken the powers of the police. They are giving aggressive people the green light to push them to the limit to antagonize the police which many are doing. Why would any sane person remove the protection of schools, with all the worst care of maniacs lurking that will kill more children. And defunding the police departments, and in some cases doing away with them, is the overkill, leaving helpless citizens without anyone to come to their aid when they are in danger. If a Democratic president is elected, many Democratic Congressmen and Women have already poised to takes arms away from home owners--they apparently support criminals having them. With killing the police departments and taking the only protection homeowners have will cause the loss of untold lives, destruction of property, robbing, stealing, but they don't care. God help us all.</p>
Debbie	Corry		Ashburn	Law enforcement budget cuts	<p>I am a teacher in a high school. The SRO is an important part of our faculty in our school and I believe in all middle and high schools. My comments apply to all Virginia law enforcement.</p> <p>I suggest a significantly phased approach that begins FIRST with a COMMITMENT to specific relational-based training. Officers and other who deal with numbers of people on a daily basis, need to know how to identify those with emotional issues, special education and intellectual needs. Please train these officers.</p> <p>DO YOU know how to identify with and properly interact with a high functioning autistic student or adult?</p> <p>Unless you have been placed in a position where you would need to know this information or trained, the answer is most likely NO. Other training, specifically race relation and communication training also needs to be incorporated into a relational-based training program.</p> <p>Virginia can lead the way if we DO NOT "throw out the baby with the bath water" which is what I see happening with the direction we are going. This issue is not political! It IS a significant training issue! Please show the upcoming generations that the way intelligent adults handle tough situations is through understanding shortfalls in all aspects of the issue. Our young people are looking at you all right now and truly wondering why you have turned your back on the people who have been hired to protect and serve our communities.</p> <p>PLEASE BE FORWARD THINKING and NOT REACTIVE!!!! TRAINING! TRAINING! TRAINING!</p>
Laurel	Guy	self	Falls Church	Police Funding	<p>I have recently come to the realization that we really don't have politics as a battleground in our streets, nor on Capitol Hill.</p> <p>I'm now aware these problems are due to evil running rampant. People appear to have absorbed demons, possessing the unthinkable. I'm really disgusted by authority figures engaging in sex trafficking, mayors allowing lawlessness and the entertainment industry that lacks the decency to revoke language, plots / actions that perpetuates the decay of our society.</p> <p>There is no reaction to this constant diet of decadence, lies and deceit currently feeding our nation. The public has become numb. Should I say the "dumbing-down" of our educational system has provided for no critical thinking. Have you no ability to know the difference between right and wrong? Apparently leaders are unable to know how to lead in a constructive manner.</p> <p>The police put their lives in harm's way every day. They deserve raises, not de-funding.</p> <p>How many government officials have security for themselves and family. Are you willing to give that up first, before you de-fund the public's safety? Answer that FIRST. We would like to have that on the record!</p> <p>I'm stymied, how do we stop this carnage? Allowing thugs to destroy homes and businesses is perverse and we need to call them out, arrest and jail them.</p> <p>Sincerely astonished in the ignorance displayed!</p> <p>Laurel Guy</p>

					<p>We all want a quick solution to settle our communities, protect them, and govern justly. Right now one-off solutions (defund police, release prisoners, limit types of police guns, etc.) sound good and gain popularity but lack a strategic plan guiding decisions.</p> <p>I suggest the committee create a small task force to draft a 2 year strategic plan with the assistance of a couple technical experts in law (like Chip Hartman) and justice (former attorney general) plus a neutral consultant to facilitate the process. An expedited process with 7-8 qualified people can produce a 1-page strategic plan with guiding principles to move forward within 2 months. Once approved by the committee, the principles (sometimes called objectives) can guide decisions as a tactical plan is developed. I have seen this process work. Actions support 4-5 principles that envision a better community.</p> <p>After the upcoming sessions for feedback, I urge the committee to take the time for intense planning to develop overall principles to guide decision making.</p> <p>It is tempting in an election year to do something quickly, look good, and get elected. I think a commitment to a timeline for developing a plan with guiding principles is even more compelling</p>
Barbara	Rainville		Keswick	Police reform and criminal justice	Let's make Virginia an example for other states. We have an opportunity to develop a long term approach that can help many more communities than just our own.
Jessica	O'Connor		Virginia Beach	Police, Removing SROs from schools, Making it	Please vote NO to all of the above. We need our police departments. Schools need security officers. If we chip away at our police departments no qualified young men and women will want to serve! Who will provide security in our cities?
David	Garner		Greene	Police funding	I strongly disapprove of the defunding of any police department as well as any law that lessens charges against anyone that assaults an officer of the law.
Robin	Smith		Warrenton	police and reducing penalties for attacking police	I wish to state my disapproval of legislation that reducing penalties for assaulting a police officer. Our police and country need to be protected from criminals. We cannot allow this to happen. I wish to live in a country where I can continue to feel safe as a widow.
Joel	Bailey		Albemarle	Police reform	As a teacher, if school systems find it best to provide a resource officer in their schools this should also be allowed. I have seen the importance of these officers within our schools.
Donald	Thaxton		Vinton	No police defunding	There should not be any changes. If there are citizens should definitely have the legal right to protect self and property as stated in our Constitution.
Meredith	Peruzzi		Fairfax County		This country is going to H___ in a handbag. There isn't enough money given to police now to pay them for what they have to do every day or night. the people wanting to defund the police have no idea what they are asking for and the first time they need the police there won't be any there. Maybe they can get a social worker or a BLM person to come and save them. I'm sorry I better cut this off before I say something I will regret.
Nicole	Scarberry	My Children	Charlotte County	Our law enforcement	I urge Virginia to revoke qualified immunity for police; revoke the right of police to declare an unlawful assembly; demilitarize the police; and revoke laws that allow for felony assault charges when an officer isn't injured. Thank you.
David	Webb		Albemarle	Joint Committee Meeting of Courts of Justice and Public Safety Committees	I am appalled that this is even up for a topic of conversation, our law enforcement who put their lives on the line every single day to protect us as Americans, going out knowing how dangerous their jobs are and are getting so much worse every single day, those are the heroes whom are the last ones that we need to use as a punching bag right now for the wrongs of others. There are good and bad people everywhere and in every profession and have always been and the criminals need to pay for their crimes, isn't that the purpose of our justice system, our judges, lawmakers and politicians? Are every one of these professions under the reign of fire that we are putting our law enforcement under right now? Would this be debatable over bad & corrupt politicians? Would every other politician be liable and punished for the wrong doings of others, have their budgets cut, jobs taken away, made to look like monsters because of a bad few. Wouldn't this be a totally different conversation if so? The thought of taking our resource officers out of our schools and cutting their budgets is insanity, thinking of sending my children to school knowing that there is no resource officers is a very scary thought. With all the craziness going on in our world right now is this really a smart choice? As politicians if your life was in danger, who would you call upon? Our law enforcement officers of whom budgets you want cut and jobs taken away? Would you ever send your children/grandchildren to schools where they have no one to protect them? Our law enforcement need our support right now, they need to know that we have not deserted them & that they will not be held accountable for others wrong doings. Punish the criminals not the heroes!
Mary	Brett	Self Traveling to Richmond	Fairfax County	Police Budget	As a retired Commonwealth of Virginia Police Officer, I am appalled that you would even consider decreasing penalties for assaulting a police officer or removing School Resource Officers from schools. Doing so puts more officers at risk of violent injuries or death, even more so than right now.
Abigail	Forsyth	Myself	Albemarle County	The removal of school resource officers	Removing SRO puts the children at more risk of bullying and more severe injuries, a more likelihood of shootings and stabbings and overall emotional problems. I can tell you that, as a father, I counted on the SRO in my daughter's schools and they did a great job. My daughter once told me that her SRO always seemed to know where the trouble was.
					Think this over seriously as their blood will be on your hands. Criminals are not afraid of the law where there is no protection. And, when there is no threat of punishment, there is no protection for the police officer.
					Our current environment is changing into mob violence, anarchy, looting, burning, murder and chaos. It seems that our alleged leaders are more concerned about what people think of them than they are of the people they are sworn to protect and serve and, ladies and gentlemen, that is you.
					I urge you to maintain or raise the Police budget. Richmond has made national and international news for civil unrest and Anarchists' destruction. Your city's economy will be hurt long term if you don't Swiftly reverse this image and proactively project a safe city with a fully funded police force. I have conducted business in Richmond for many years, once for a 9-month stint Weekdays, and the police have always been professional and friendly. I truly hesitate to travel to Richmond at this juncture due to the uncertainty about my safety. You need to support the women and men who sacrifice so much to serve the community in so many unrewarded ways. I urge you to show your support financially and to issue a press release that will demonstrate the city's renewed safety.
					I am a 2016 graduate of Albemarle High School. Throughout my four years at AHS, I had limited contact with our SRO other than seeing her in the hallways from time to time. However, there was an incident that occurred at the beginning of my sophomore year that required attention beyond that of the administration. While nothing he did was illegal, it was concerning behavior that made me feel unsafe in my learning environment (as well as encounters in town). He would consistently be inside my personal space, ask very personal questions, follow me from class to my car/bus, etc. When crossing paths at the local gym, the behaviors were much the same. After a conversation with my SRO in conjunction with my parents, she managed the situation to both stop him from continuing this behavior and presenting/assist me with next steps should the behaviors persist. Without her help, I would 1. not have had a safe learning environment, 2. not known what next steps to take, and 3. potentially felt that this behavior is normal which could have led me to dangerous situations.
					Now, I am a newly certified and licensed athletic trainer. I recognize the importance of knowing the people you lead and manage. In my field, I may be a great athletic trainer at a local high school with a great booster program. By my awareness, needs, and demands all change radically if I were to be placed in a school with 100% free and reduced lunch. SRO operate much the same. They know their role and ability to assist because of the relationships they've built and time they spend doing what they were trained to do. The value of their role comes in their ability to prevent bad things from happening just as much as it does to help once bad things have happened.

Rex	Honodel		Glen Allen	Law enforcement policies, procedures, response	<p>Although I reside in Henrico County I am a stakeholder in Richmond policing because lawlessness in Richmond spills over into adjoining jurisdictions and affects my safety and that of my family and neighbors.</p> <p>I am in favor of increasing the police budget to allow an increased presence in problem neighborhoods and to fund recruitment and training of officers.</p> <p>I encourage you to support our police officers. Penalties for assaulting officers should not be reduced. Those officers serve and protect the public and in turn deserve our respect and protection.</p> <p>Likewise, removing School Resource Officers would be ill advised because they are the first line of defense against armed intruders. Our schools need more protection, not less.</p> <p>Fort the safety of the public, I am in favor of disciplining or firing officers who demonstrate a recurring pattern of bad professional behavior or judgement. However, I strongly oppose actions that punish all officers for the misdeeds of a few.</p>
Christopher	Brevard		Floyd Co.	Defunding the police...	<p>As our world continues in a downward spiral, defunding those who keep us safe makes absolutely no sense at all! In November of 2019 most localities decided to show their support for the Second Amendment and I think we can see why this was so important to us! As elected officials we vote for you all to pass legislative action that will keep us safe. Most police departments had the motto of: "To protect and serve". I will concede that from time to time people pass through the system that have ill intent. There are some bad apples, but please do not let those bad apples spoil the entire batch! By defunding any Police Force or Sheriff's Office you will in fact show that you do not care about the public safety of our localities and ultimately of our fine state.</p>
Kathy	Brown		Albemarle	Police	<p>I support a review of police policies, but recognize the difficulties police face with each call. I have seen police deescalate tough confrontations with teens, and get the teens to trust them on multiple occasions. Both teens had mental health conditions. I was very impressed with how the Albemarle police responded. Deescalation skills should be emphasized with mental health situations.</p> <p>I believe police need a full "toolbox of skills " to use, and think chokeholds can be necessary in very limited situations. A psychiatrist nurse friend told me sometimes they used a chokehold for the safety of the patient as well as staff. Situations can explode quickly and safety is critical to ending the crisis, and/or crime. The police, the community, and the individual need to be kept safe.</p> <p>If you want people to trust police, then S.R.O. officers are critical to building that trust with kids in schools. I do not support cutting funding for SRO officers in schools at all. Use successful methods in schools, but I know that SRO officers can keep bullies at bay, can protect teachers and kids in a crisis, and make kids feel safe, esp if their home situation is difficult & dangerous.</p> <p>Decades ago we increased guns & equipment for the police because gangs and drug dealers had more gun power than the police. It was a terrible dangerous situation. Police still have to deal with dangerous criminals and need at least an equivalent weapon, or they become sitting ducks, and our communities suffer as victims as well.</p> <p>I do not want more gangs, drug dealing and human trafficking to increase because we are decreasing the police force, reducing their ability to fight crime, and telling them to stand down as a state.</p>
Volpe	Boykin	Southern and Central Isle of Wight Citizens Group	Carrsville, Virginia	All proposed restrictions on Law Enforcement Officers- Any Change in Police Budgets	<p>I oppose any change or additional controls on Law Enforcement. I have a short story that says it all:</p> <p>The wolf has somehow convinced the sheep that the sheepdog is the dangerous one and that he must be removed.I pray for the sheep when the sheepdog is gone and the wolf has all the sheep to himself.</p> <p>This is exactly what is happening. People demonstrate and riot because of a 10 or so people that have been wrongfully killed by police in the past 3 years, while that is wrong and a tragedy, how about the 170 officers that have been murdered by gunfire since 2017 and many more that were killed in other ways trying to save citizens. It amazes me how the very ones that want to victimize the citizenry have convinced some of them that they need less or no police.</p> <p>This is insanity at its best. You want to curtail firearms rights and then curtail the police who protect us. Looks like a page right out if the Marxist playbook. The lunatics really have taken over the asylum.</p>
Alesia	Talbot		Elkton, VA	Police polices and SRO	<p>The vast majority of police officers are good officers, who try to help the community in which they are giving a service of safety and well-being. This has been my experience in my town of Elkton, but also in the city of Norfolk.</p> <p>My son lived in Norfolk, just 2 years ago, and while there experienced a mental health crisis. We had to call and involve the police due to the fact he had armed himself. That was an extremely unnerving night. Fervently I asked God for protection for not only my son, but also the police officers and the neighbors. God answered my prayers through the team of police officers. They were good to him and to us. Not one shot was fired. The lead officer was an excellent communicator. He made the comment that this happens more than one would think, but that they had trained for scenarios like that one and had a good team who wanted a positive outcome. I cannot say enough good things about the Norfolk police and that process of involving their help, and the caring team who came to help us.</p> <p>In my town I am the librarian at the elementary school and regularly talk with our county resource officer, who primarily works at the high school. I would love to have one just assigned to our school as he, and others I have known over the years, truly wants to develop positive relationships with the kids. The same is true for our town officers. They rotate days and help out with bus duty. They are there to greet the kids and build positive relationships. The kids do respond well to them. When there have been times of family crisis the kids have been involved, knowing the officer, who is responding, is calming for the kid. There are good police programs in our commonwealth, and many good officers.</p>
Volpe	Boykin	Southern and Central Isle of Wight Citizens Group	Carrsville, Virginia	All proposed restrictions on Law Enforcement Officers- Any Change in Police Budgets	<p>I oppose any change or additional controls on Law Enforcement. I have a short story that says it all:</p> <p>The wolf has somehow convinced the sheep that the sheepdog is the dangerous one and that he must be removed.I pray for the sheep when the sheepdog is gone and the wolf has all the sheep to himself.</p> <p>This is exactly what is happening. People demonstrate and riot because of a 10 or so people that have been wrongfully killed by police in the past 3 years, while that is wrong and a tragedy, how about the 170 officers that have been murdered by gunfire since 2017 and many more that were killed in other ways trying to save citizens. It amazes me how the very ones that want to victimize the citizenry have convinced some of them that they need less or no police.</p> <p>This is insanity at its best. You want to curtail firearms rights and then curtail the police who protect us. Looks like a page right out if the Marxist playbook. The lunatics really have taken over the asylum.</p>

Steve	Olson		CHARLOTTESVILLE	criminal justice meetings	<p>The foremost responsibility of government is to keep its citizens safe by providing law and order. To that end I comment on the following upcoming proposals.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Decreasing penalty's for assaulting a police officer. This is nonsensical and in no way increases our safety. 2. Removing SRO'S This in no way serves to enhance the safety or security for our children, police presence in our schools provides needed defense and allows students to positively interact with our law enforcement officials 3. Cutting the police budget. At this time of unrest and growing lawlessness if anything we should be increasing the police budget for the protection of our citizens. Anything action counter to this could only be seen as foolish. <p>thanks for your concern and consideration,</p> <p>Steve Olson</p>
Tracy	McCauley	Personal Comment on Behalf of Virginia Police Officers at all Levels of Commonwealth Government	Stanardsville, VA 22973	22 July 2020 Meeting: (a) to decrease penalties for assaulting police officers; (b) to remove SROs; (c) to cut the police budget	<p>As a Vietnam-era US Marine Corps officer, and later as a US Govt. specialist, I am saddened and appalled by the thought of (a) reducing penalties for assaulting police officers; (b) removing SROs from Virginia schools; (c) cutting the police budget(s). Such action would be extremely dangerous and damaging to retaining our US Constitutional form of government and create increased criminal behavior in our Commonwealth.</p> <p>My recommendation--instead--would be to do the opposite: (1) increase penalties for assaulting police officers; (2) double the number of SROs in Virginia schools; and (3) double the police budget. We can discuss possible budget cuts in almost any other field.</p> <p>Thank you for considering my comments during this important meeting. Take care and Semper Pariti!</p>
I	izDordal		Fairfax	the police sooner or later. Our world is a better place with them. You don't have the	<p>Everyone needs the police sooner or later. Our world is a better place with them. You don't have the authority to take away my right to feeling safe in my community. Where would you be without them, fellow Democrats?</p>
Noelle	Klein		Albemarle	Police Funding	<p>Dear Members of the Committee,</p> <p>I believe it is imperative that decisions to reallocate funds away from Police Departments and to send alternative professionals into potentially dangerous situations must be based on facts and sound research, NOT political or public pressure which may be driven by emotion. Our feelings do not always represent reality and we cannot make policy decisions concerning the safety of our communities based on emotion alone. I would ask the committee to look closely at the types of situations the police encounter, get accurate numbers on the outcomes of these interactions and proceed cautiously to make needed changes. It is detrimental to all to unfairly label police officers as perpetrators of brutality if the facts do not bear that out. Edited social media videos, no matter how shocking or overplayed, may not accurately tell the whole story. Perhaps this in depth review would identify concrete changes needed in training, the need for police to work in teams with mental health professionals and tangible actions we can take to improve police community relations. These things may actually require increased or stable funding to achieve. Or...there may indeed be areas where funds can be reallocated, but those decisions would be made after a careful and thorough review. Look carefully at the areas of our country where the police have been shut out or attacked and you will not see safer, more stable communities. Let's support the good men and women of law enforcement and work together with them to ensure safety, security and prosperity for all citizens of our great state.</p> <p>Sincerely, Noelle Klein</p>
Shelton	Cartwright		CHARLOTTESVILLE	Police Reform suits on police.	<p>There has been a lot of hype and misdirection about the phrase "defund the police". First it should be defined to a universal meaning that is well understood by all Virginians. It is unfortunate that some jurisdictions in other states have already taken "defund" far too literally, and we see rising crime rates as a result.</p> <p>Defund police in our Commonwealth should mean to remove hate or mistrust of other races from the hearts of men and women who want to be a part of our police forces.</p> <p>We need to properly fund and support our police to protect our communities. At the same time, we need to help our police eradicate all lingering vestiges of our terrible Jim Crow days. I am sure most of our current police force want this. Give them tools to achieve this because it will build bridges of trust and respect between the police and all races in our communities. When this happens then we will see a day that it will be safe for our police to perform their duties without guns.</p>
George	Smith	retired	Annandale	https://www.fbi.gov/services/cjis/ucr/leoka. I had only short notice of this matter and thus did not have time for anything detailed. Suffice to say that there have ALREADY been 32 murders of police in 2020, vs. only 25 at this stage in last year. The media and	<p>I understand there is a bill proposing to reduce the penalty for assault on a police officer from a felon to a misdemeanor. This is outrageously wrong, radical, dangerous to our officers, and entirely unjustified. Please see the embedded report of FBI data showing an enormous increase in deadly assaults on police this year.</p> <p>https://www.fbi.gov/services/cjis/ucr/leoka. It shows that ALREADY in this year, there have been 32 felonious killings of police officers in the U.S., vs. only 25 at this stage last year -- a 28% increase in killings of police. In the face of this increasingly lawless assault on our officers, legislators propose radical bills to increase the prospect of more murders of police and otherwise harm and hinder the police in their efforts to fight increased violent crime. I have had only short notice of this hearing and thus no time to prepare more than the above. That said, as a 40-year-plus resident of this County, a Marine veteran, and former DOJ attorney, I adamantly oppose the bill to reduce the penalty for assaults on police and other anti-police measures under consideration here.</p>

					I have been in law enforcement for 18 years. During that time I've seen the impact that crime has had on victims and families of victims. My own family was the victim of a crime nearly 40 years ago. As my parents were planning for their wedding a man hid in the back of my mother's car. When she got in to leave he held her at gun point took her to a remote location and raped her. He was convicted and only served 16 months. Once I came along several years later I watched my mother clean house going room to room with a loaded gun. As a small child I didn't understand this. A few years later she suffered a nervous breakdown as a result of the trauma. Years later she used that trauma as fuel to fight for the abolishment of parole. She put her need to save the next victim ahead of her fear. As a direct result of her efforts parole was abolished in Virginia and many lives were saved. Your motives for reinstating parole are purely political. Her motives for abolishing it were personal but more over it was so another innocent victim didn't have to suffer the pain she did and the pain we as a family did. To reinstate parole would be a travesty and would be a serious injustice to victims. Just like her I go to work every day to fight the good fight and hopefully prevent another person from being a victim. You as elected officials have the same duty to protect. The ones who are pushing for reinstatement are playing a dangerous game that will jeopardize the lives of many Virginians long after you're gone. It's time we take a stand and place victims over criminals. It's your responsibility to do what is right for the VICTIMS not the criminals. They make the choice to commit these acts and with these choices come consequences.
Heath	Seagle		Wythe	Ending parole	
Pam	Pouchot		Yorktown	law enforcement	<p>1. In VA if a law-enforcement officer is fired for use of excessive force, they still retain their certification. That is not acceptable. If they quit before being fired there is no requirement that their personnel files be automatically forwarded to any jurisdiction where they apply for employment. Their files must follow them and hold the employing jurisdiction accountable for any adverse actions by the new hire. The original employer must be required to document all misbehavior.</p> <p>2. Many law-enforcement officers are former military. They are trained to kill. A police officer/deputy's job should be about de-escalation, using the least amount of force possible and improving community relations, not maximum use of force. These applicants need to be re-trained to learn a new mindset.</p> <p>3. There needs to be a statute to require all law-enforcement officers to intercede when a fellow officers uses excessive force, ignores training or the law, as well as termination if those officers fail to act, fail to report the action or subsequently lie about the action.</p> <p>4. All law-enforcement officers need to have mental health evaluations at least every 6 months. Too many lose their empathy over time. We also need to weed out the bigots and misogynists.</p> <p>5. The General Assembly must enact laws to change how law-enforcement interacts with the citizenry. Recommendations and suggestions are not acceptable. No more "may." The language must say "shall." Leave no room for interpretation. Be clear and forceful. This is overdue.</p>
MICHELLE	BRECKENRIDGE	Community Reformation of Wholeness Network	STAFFORD	Criminal Justice Reform	<p>Hi, my name is Michelle Breckenridge and my zip code is 22554. Police reform is about establishing laws that put an end to the harassment, over-policing, disproportionate arrests and caging of African Americans and other people of color. Our society must end its over reliance on law enforcement and prisons to solve its problems. During the special session this summer, the legislature must focus on eradicating the laws that allow police to make arrests that violate the constitutional rights of its citizens and endangers, rather than protects, their lives.</p> <p>I am writing to ask you to support real, meaningful, thorough criminal justice reform during the special session this summer. Please:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •End pretextual policing—the fake reasons police cite when they initiate non-consensual encounters with citizens (who are disproportionately people of color). •Enact an authorizing statute permitting localities to start robust civilian oversight of law enforcement, with auditing authority and subpoena power. •Legalize marijuana. •Get police out of schools. Implement restorative justice programs in schools instead. •Reform egregious procedural injustice in the criminal Code by giving defendants a choice about jury sentencing. •And repeal all mandatory minimums, not just for nonviolent offenses, but all offenses—especially the assault on law enforcement statute, which has been weaponized by bad cops and overzealous prosecutors, not actual violent behavior, and in many cases is used to cover up for police misconduct. <p>The House of Delegates, which was the main obstacle to criminal justice reform earlier this year, must enact these reforms and the Senate must stand by its commitment. Thank you for your consideration.</p>
Erika	Scott		Fairfax	Bring back earned good time	It is important that you bring back good time earned for those who have stayed out of trouble and have been free of new charges. We all make mistakes and these people deserve a second chance. Please bring it back and allow our loved ones to come home!
Christina	Shaffer		Richmond	I smell weed as probable cause for police to search cars/person	<p>Dear Mr. Willett:</p> <p>Please consider removing the aforementioned topic as a provision in the law. I am sure you have seen the video posted on the Washington Post's page that has garnered national social media attention. Though this video is from 2019, it highlights exactly why the claim "I smell marijuana" must immediately be removed as probable cause for search.</p> <p>It is my understanding that there was much debate during the 2020 General Assembly regarding removing the odor of marijuana as probable cause, but the legislature was unable to reach consensus on the language. I urge you today to resolve to remove the language. It is disproportionately used with BIPOC and is ultimately a discriminatory practice that must end.</p> <p>I thank you and your colleagues for your time and consideration in this most important matter.</p> <p>Respectfully,</p> <p>Christina B. Shaffer</p>
david	lerch	self	falmouth	protecting our police	<p>what is your gameplan here get rid of the police then claim our children are no longer safe in school so you can demand everyone surrender their weapons to save the kids? is everybody who wants this willing to publish their home address so the "protesters" will know where to start? This cannot be serious, defund police, defelonize assault, please tell me our elected officials are not doing this in the interest of the citizens of the commonwealth</p>
Brian	Shaffer		Henrico	Remove 'I smell marijuana' as probable cause	<p>Dear Delegates and colleagues:</p> <p>Please consider removing this provision in the law. I am sure you have seen the video posted on the Washington Post's page that has garnered national attention. Though this video is from 2019, it highlights exactly why the claim "I smell marijuana" must immediately be removed as probable cause for search. It is my understanding that there was much debate during the 2020 General Assembly regarding removing the odor of marijuana as probable cause, but the legislature was unable to reach consensus on the language. I urge you today to resolve to remove the language. It is disproportionately used with BIPOC and is ultimately a discriminatory practice that must end. I thank you and your colleagues for your time and consideration in this most important matter.</p> <p>Respectfully,</p> <p>Brian Shaffer</p>

					<p>I do not live in Richmond or Charlottesville and glad I do not. Defunding Police = reducing Police protection and opening the doors for more crime. School Resource Officers are at least a deterrent to crime in the school system and at best the protector of school students and staff.</p> <p>Check out Portland, Oregon, Minneapolis, Minnesota for examples of the destruction that happens when police are removed from protecting citizens. What a mess those two cities have to clean up from such naive action.</p> <p>In a perfect world we wouldn't need police, but this is not a perfect world. Unless an area can show a NO crime report for consecutive months/years keep the police in full force and deal with Police Officers who go too far the same way any other criminal would be treated.</p> <p>Compare it to getting a vaccination. Maybe you'll never get the illness if not vaccinated but why take the chance.</p> <p>In either case a life could depend on it.</p>
Elaine	Horstkamp		Manassas	Defunding Police & Removing SRO	<p>Stay focused on SAFETY. If the budget needs to be cut, start cutting salaries and perks at the top of the State or Local government levels.</p>
Randy	Huffman		Albemarle	Police Reform	<p>I wish to comment on two general proposals I have read are being considered. In the last month, we are seeing a significant increase of violence in various center cities, as well as attacks made against police officers. While there have been clear acts of racism and hatred by some police officers, such as in the George Floyd murder, the vast majority of police officers are honest and hard working. In many cases, mistakes may be made due to lack of training, or turnover. Our police officers should be treated with the highest level of respect, and they in turn should treat all community members with the same level of respect.</p> <p>1. An effort to downgrade the charge of assault of a police officer from a felony to a misdemeanor should be rejected. Attacking a police officer is very serious, and by downgrading a charge, it may be viewed as "open season" by some who would consider such action. Simply look at some of the horrible attacks made against police in other cities in recent weeks, are you willing to invite these attackers into Virginia?</p> <p>2. Efforts to defund, or reduce police budgets is misguided. Such an action will reduce the number of officers available for calls, and also, may reduce the training and qualifications of such officers. We need the best seasoned, trained and honest police officers available in our communities. Reducing budgets will likely result in increased crime, and put at greater risk the most vulnerable who need the police the most.</p> <p>Respectively. Randy Huffman</p>
Jay	Postak		Fluvanna County	Law enforcement policies, procedures, response, accreditation and certification	<p>To my fellow Virginians, We cannot and should not think of defunding and/or reducing our police force. These heroic individuals protect and enforce our laws, which protect our freedom and assure our constitutional rights are protected. Without them we will have anarchy and lawlessness. What our police officers need is our support and encouragement, especially during these times of unrest in our cities. What needs to be done are public announcements to each and every citizen that explains what you should do if questioned by a police officer: When pulled over in a vehicle, Walking down the street, When an officer comes to your residence, etc.. And if you resist arrest then you will be subject to what measures are necessary to be apprehended. The assailant, or the general public for that matter, needs to be conscious of the consequences of resisting arrest.</p> <p>The School Resource Officers are there for the purpose of making the students and teachers feel safe and their presence is greatly appreciated by all. Not to mention the officers great influence on the young who are attending the school, who my someday aspire to become a police officer.</p> <p>I am proud to be a Virginian and have been most of my life. We have a rich history and we must never forget it. Many of our founding fathers lived here and none of them feared fighting against the current of injustice. I ask all our elected officials to resist joining the mounting flood of cities, who are buckling under the weight of civil unrest, and are actually defunding the very same officers who have sworn to protect them. Let us uphold the dignity of every police officer and show them the deep respect they deserve.</p>
Beth	Tolley		Henrico	Criminal Justice Reform - including for students	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Eliminate criminal charges for students; return responsibility for discipline to the schools. 2. Require - and provide funding for education of all personnel working in schools, all police officers, all judges, and all prosecutors about neuroscience, attachment, development, and trauma. •Stress, distress, trauma and resilience; the three parts of the brain; regulatory systems of the brain/body; how to recognize brain body states; how to prevent dysregulation; emotional contagion; self-care and organizational care. 3. Ban Restraint and Seclusion in schools 4. Separate "parent support and education" organizations from the funding and authority of the Department of Education. 5. Return the charge of Assault on a Law Enforcement Officer (LEO) to a misdemeanor offense rather than the felony charge it currently is in Virginia Code § 18.2-57. •The charge of assault is abused in the schools as well as with adults. 6. Forbid lying by law enforcement to citizens during interrogation and any other time. Focus on integrity and fairness. 7. Require LE and CJS to consider developmental age and level of executive functioning skills when determining how to assure rights are protected. 8. Independent citizen review panels for criminal justice system – with teeth/authority. 9. Marcus Law across the state. 10. Standardized CIT training; Include info/training about autism. 11. Autistic self-advocate assigned to be present for autistic individuals in the CJS – every time there is communication with LE and CJS 13. Inclusion of autistic self-advocates on review boards,
Sharon Lacey	Vincent Johnson		Isle of Wight King George	Assault of a police officer bill	<p>I strongly disagree that an assault of a police officer should be a misdemeanor. Police officers have to be protected so that they can do their job and if the punishment is not strong enough criminals will not think twice about attacking an officer. My daughter is a police officer and I worry about her every day. Please protect her by keeping this a felony charge.</p> <p>We want the earned good time bill passed</p>
Jacqueline	Manapsal		Prince William	hearings on police policies and criminal justice issues	<p>I am opposed to removing School Resource Officers and decreasing penalties for assaulting police officers. Our nation has seen the violence associated with these actions in large cities such as New York, Portland, Chicago and Minneapolis. Promoting violence, by reducing penalties of criminals who assault officers and hampering the ability of police to protect the public by reducing the police budget, will not bring an end to violence. The police bring law and order by protecting the public from criminals. The government is clearly not working for law abiding citizens if these proposals are passed.</p>

Gene	Ziener		Fairfax County	Decreasing penalties for assaulting police officers; cutting the police budget	<p>I am opposed to decreasing penalties for assaulting police officers. There is no wisdom nor merit in political leadership embracing anything that would compromise the authority of the police and incentivize those who would commit violence and disregard our laws.</p> <p>It makes no sense to undermine the protection of our citizens by reducing the police force, their training and their ability to effectively do their job in protecting and serving their communities..</p>
James	Newman	Myself	Charlottesville	Police Officers	<p>The police are not the enemy but great public servants in the main. It is therefore my position that they should be supported not defamed and not denied the resources that they need to do their job.</p> <p>Police in the schools are necessary. Not only to protect the students from any outside menace but to protect the students from each other. Sadly recent history readily demonstrates that.</p> <p>Interfering with and or striking a police officer is the same as interfering with our assaulting the "STATE". While the penalties might not necessarily be increased they certainly should not be reduced. It is readily apparent that a relaxation as to the existent statues will lead to anarchy and increased lawlessness. (SEE PORTLAND and NEW YORK CITY).</p>
Amber	Crocker		Stafford	Earned good time bill	<p>I am in support of the earned good time bill. My fiancé was given a 30 year sentence and is working hard to stay out of trouble. He is educating his self he works in the print shop and working hard to better his self as are others. With this pandemic right now this will help a lot of men and women come home early to reduce the spread of covid 19 and I'm sure would help with the violence I. The prison because it would give people hope and a chance to earn good time towards them coming home and to be free. Please pass this bill</p>
Matthew	Thacker		Scottsville	Police defunding 2nd Amendment	<p>My father was the longest in office Mayor in Virginia A Raymon Thacker he spent his 38 years of his life doing good for our small town and the state of Virginia. He had friends on both sides of the fence. From Doug Wilder to George Allen. He passed 2016 at 106 years old. I'm glad he's not here to see what's happening to our beloved State and Country. I am opposed to any defunding of police. Hold policeman that do horrific things accountable but the people need law enforcement. There are shortages in rural areas as it is. Minorities as well as whites will suffer for lack of officers. You want to take away citizens 2nd amendment rights to protect themselves, let criminals out early and defund the police and Make it less a crime to assault an officer. You will be lucky to keep any officers at all if you tie their hands behind their back. The thought that they could go to jail for shooting a perp even if warranted will cause them to hesitate and it could cost them their life.</p> <p>Why are you determined to destroy this state? Im also speaking up now " No more Gun Control " Virginia is sixth safest state in America. Over 20,000 rallied in January and over 140 counties, municipalities and towns became constitutional Or 2nd amendment sanctuaries. We are tired of having to defend a right already afforded us in the Constitution of the United States and Virginia bill of rights. A very small percentage of rifles are used in commission of a felony or hi cap rifle mags for that matter in Virginia . This state is safer with law abiding citizens owning firearms than Maryland or any big city with extreme gun laws, why can't you guys get that. Thank you, Matthew Thacker</p>
Joshua	Riffey	American citizen	Edinburg	.fines and other embargoes on released inmates	<p>I think it's worth consideration to have a scale program for offender reintroduction to society. Based on continued and rewarded success. A program that takes some of the hopeless feelings alot of folks struggle with .3 mths good behavior ,reduction in court costs fines 6 mths -wjatevr and so forth. Mwithost being able to get license ,save money , own place and stable conditions .</p>
Pamela	Silvers		Earlsville	Resource officers in school	<p>I am writing as a concerned parent, mainly that decisions being made are being made for political gain instead of logic. As a moderate I sit in the middle on many issues, some I lean left, some right. To me resource officers in school isn't political it's common sense. My children are young and have many years left to go through the county schools. I am grateful that my financial position allows me to remove them should this decision be made. Schools are not safe and while a resource officer doesn't even begin to make a dent into what really needs to happen at schools, it's something, one safe measure. What is the benefit to removal? I am all for adding mental health professionals but removing resource officers is illogical. This is purely political, as is lowering the fine for assaulting an officer. Logically speaking wouldn't lowering the fine make it more likely for someone to assault an officer, and wouldn't that result in more police shootings/police brutality? How does lowering the fine for assaulting a police officer benefit anyone? I don't normally let politics get to me but when we are talking about the safety of my child I am bothered! So grateful we have the means to remove our children from the county schools. Should our local government not be focused on real problems? If you need a list of projects that will actually help people feel free to call me!</p>
Alfred	Jacocks		Virginia Beach	18.2-57 Assault and Battery of Law Enforcement Officer	<p>I ask that you vote NO on any proposal to reduce assault and battery of a law enforcement officer to a misdemeanor. We cannot ask law enforcement officers to protect us 24/7 and then minimize physical assaults against them for doing what we ask them to do. Reducing the assault to a misdemeanor will embolden certain individuals to resist and assault officers, resulting in MORE incidents of officers using force to a)defend themselves and b)complete their lawful arrest. Adopting this proposal ultimately will exacerbate the need for officers to use force, as some are deterred from assaulting officers now because it is a felony. Law enforcement officers deserve our respect and everything we can do to protect their personal safety. Also, consider the negative impact this would likely have on law enforcement agencies recruiting a diverse workforce as potential candidates see that our lawmakers codified a lack of concern for their safety by failing to discourage assault on law enforcement officers.</p> <p>If you chose to move forward with this horrible proposal, then paragraphs B and C should be deleted in their entirety. Virginia cannot punish assault on a judge, magistrate, correctional officer, firefighter, rescue squad worker, or assault on a person because of their because of their race, religious conviction, gender, disability, gender identity, sexual orientation, color, or national origin as a felony, while treating assault on a law enforcement officer as a misdemeanor.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration.</p>
Carl	Schultz		Reston, Fairfax	Justice in public safety	<p>End bail. Zero tolerance for Police officers that use exclusive force. You allow it to happen, it keeps happening. Get rid of pretext laws (defective equipment, dangling objects, loud exhaust) I smell weed, high crime areas, nervousness. All subjective pretext, get rid of it. Jaywalking ... get rid of it</p>
Noval Ashley	Smith Crocker		Chesterfield Woodbridge	reduce criminal penalties for assaulting a police officer, bill	<p>The Democratic Party of Virginia is sending a loud and clear message to this state about its fundamental belief: Black Lives Don't Matter. The results of these asinine proposals are maddeningly predictable: less aggressive policing, more violent crime, more urban decay, more business flight from Richmond's inner core, more educational chaos and failure. No doubt a few years from now some of the same Democratic politicians will survey the resultant wreckage and carnage and blame it all on systemic racism. God help us all.</p> <p>I would like the earned good time Bill passed now.</p>
Kirsten	Darby	Just Future Project	Caroline	Probation Reform in ALL settings for ALL Returning Citizens, including those labeled SVPs	<p>The intent of probation is to assist returning citizens in re-integration; however, probation officers routinely take every opportunity to re-incarcerate for technical probation violations, even omitting facts or misrepresenting the truth in court to insure probation is revoked.</p> <p>Nowhere is that more evident than for those convicted of sex offenses and returning to the community. Navigating the rules of probation alone is a struggle, and with the additional burdens of the registry, re-incarceration occurs frequently not due to new offenses, but for actions that are perfectly legal for the rest of society.</p> <p>Those civilly committed as SVPs, although they have completed prison sentences, are also policed by probation and tracked by GPS monitors, monitored by polygraphs, and severely limited in terms of residency and job restrictions all determined without oversight by probation. One minor violation, rarely if ever related to a sexual offense, results in indefinite confinement at VCBR only to repeat a "treatment" regime widely available in the community.</p> <p>It's time for the Commonwealth to embrace the intended use of probation as meaningful restoration for ALL returning citizens, and provide training and oversight so that probation officers are held accountable for the success of their clients, not police them back into prison or jail. And probation, which is solely the back-end of policing in Virginia, should have no role in the supervision of those citizens not under the control of VADOC, which would apply to the people released from VCBR.</p>

JOHN	WHITAKER		Fries	Police Reform	To members of the Virginia legislature: As a lifelong resident, taxpayer and voter of the Commonwealth I implore you to make no changes to the laws regarding our police officers in regard to funding except possibly to expand funding, NOT reductions. Also, anyone who assaults a police officer should always face felony charges, not misdemeanor. One thing that should be addressed is mental health assessments for all potential candidates as well as regular assessments for current officers. This should be required due to the extreme stresses of the job. Anything that cuts our law enforcement in any way will have detrimental consequences due to reduced morale, not to mention the reduced protection for people of the Commonwealth.
Mark Louitha	Crean Stephens	Private Citizen	Henrico Portsmouth	Penalty for assaulting a police officer	Dear Ladies and Gentlemen: During the last couple months, we have seen video all too often of violent anarchists and looters who have infiltrated crowds of peaceful protesters. When confronted by police, their response has been to throw bottles and bricks at law enforcement and otherwise aggressively resist arrest. As bad as it has been, imagine how more often this lawless activity will increase once word gets out that the penalty for being caught is no longer a felony, but a mere misdemeanor. During these trying times, law enforcement officers need more support from public officials, not less. For the sake of an orderly society, please be a part of the solution and vote down these unhelpful proposals that would reduce the penalty for attacking law enforcement officers.
Sam	Edwards III		Surry	Law enforcement	Earned Good time bill I think it is a mistake to change the penalties for assaulting a police officer from a felony to a misdemeanor. Defunding law enforcement is a mistake and only leaves law abiding citizens in jeopardy. More education is needed for the police on how to deal with public interaction but more importantly the public needs to be educated on how they interact with law enforcement. Law enforcement needs to be treated with more respect by lawmakers and not allow outliers rule their decisions.
Stephanie	Jones		Prince William	Criminal justice/ police reform	Whether or not defunding the police departments won't change on officers outlook on citizens values. Mandating officers to engage more activism in communities. If and when an officer provides a citizen with a citation the judicial system should be more lenient to possibly dropping charges depending on the severity and occurrence committed by one. Virginia statewide mandating that all officers have a body camera and a vehicle camera at all times. Evaluating individual officers periodically. (Like any other citizen they may suffer some sort of mental illness, etc...) Enforcing amendment 13 without committing a crime to be allowed or involuntary to be treated as a slave. Abolish slavery once and for all! Like police reform for our communities; maybe creating a budget for correctional center guards to follow some of the same precautions as officers; ex: body cams so that the treatment that is provided to prisoners are monitored. The way people are perceived or judged based solely on appearance, shouldn't be allowed when making a case deciding someone's punishments. People should NOT be judged by their race, sexual preferences, appearance as in clothing tattoos hair color make up hair style etc. Stereotyping someone on height, weight, skin tone, or anything else needs to end. Don't speak it act on it! Equality sentencing procedures upon actual guidelines statewide. Defendants with no criminal history should have more leniency on sentencing verses a defendant whose committed multiple crimes. Chances to appeal should be granted at any time. (Sometimes because of misrepresentation you have no choice but to deny an appeal) Proper rehabilitation for prisoners within their transfer to a correctional center.
Alaric	MacGregor III		Stafford VA		I am unable to attend in person but want to express my full support for the our police officers. I am against any reduction in penalties for assaulting a police officer. I am against defunding the police or cutting their budget and I am against removing SRO's from our schools. Thank you.
Latoya	Woodley		Williamsburg	Earned Good Time bill getting	Will there be any early release or information about the earned good time bill being passed due to the covid-19.
Thomas	Nelson	Self	Roseland	School Security	Who will take responsibility for any mass shooting at a school where the SRO was removed? The obvious answer is the shooter but I am speaking to the decision of someone or some official legislative body removing the SRO. Will this decision maker be held accountable for remove the SRO line of defense? Can they be charged as an assessor?
Chanda	Madison	Inmates	Suffolk	Earned Credit (Good Time)	I am in favor of the good time sentence credit My loved one is in St Bride Correctional Center suffering through COVID-19 along with almost 90 other men in his dormitory They have been having symptoms for WEEKS. And currently passing it back and forth to each other. Please HELP
Peter	Wurzer		Albemarle County	Reducing Police Funding, Eliminating Resource Officers in Schools.	There is a lot of 'feeling' going on in this country and not much thinking. I certainly hope that this body is not among the non thinkers. Police are a critical part of a just society. They are responsible for gathering evidence for the people to prosecute those may have broken the law. What is particularly concerning is that the police are most needed in those communities that are the poorest. So when you decide to cut back funding for the police it is likely that those citizens will bear the brunt of crimes of opportunity. It is not unreasonable to consider better ways to deploy the police, but make certain that all the people are properly served and that their rights to justice are not reduced. Finally, School Resource Officers can be a valuable part of providing safety for our children, who are most vulnerable in today's school environment. Use your head and your heart!