

PUBLIC COMMENTS

HB 3151

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON STATE AFFAIRS

---

Hearing Date: March 25, 2021 8:00 AM

---

Frank Pomeroy

myself as a concerned citizen

Seguin, TX

As a concerned citizen I find it rather appalling that we would think of defunding those who put their lives on the line everyday to help protect my freedoms. Those who seem to complain about LEO's are those who are breaking the law. Why should we penalize and endanger those who are law abiding citizens to placate the criminals in society or to play politics with hot button issues. I agree that all LEO's should be frugal and think about training funds and such however we should be encouraging and supporting these men and women in uniform not making them scapegoats for a radical agenda from the criminals. I humbly ask the house to please pass this bill so as to penalize any municipalities or county that chooses to put politics before safety by defunding LEO's.

Francis Tyminski, CW3

Self, retired

Rockwall, TX

Do not defund police. Gang warfare and drug traffickers are infiltrating our cities and towns daily. The police are already outgunned and the citizenry being disarmed.

If you must, first defund all private security or police details protecting government officials, and office buildings.

Back the Blue.

Mary Plies

City of Austin taxpayers

austin, TX

Our local governments are statutorily responsible for providing for the safety and health of our citizens, and so making sure that they do that through properly funding the police is important. As cities grow they must invest in public safety

Michelle Orcutt

Self

CORPUS CHRISTI, TX, TX

Our municipalities should be sanctuaries for citizens who live there. Any city who adopts laws that allow unlawful immigration, crime or excessive unrest (example summer 2020 riots all over the US) should have funding reduced or removed. NO defunding the police, fire, emergency services should be allowed. Safe communities should not be political...it should be made on rationale thought and action for the good of all citizens!

Ed Heimlich, Exec Director

Informed Citizens

Printed on: March 29, 2021 3:32 PM

I am a Republican. These bills are directed at depriving the people of Texas of their Right to local Self Government. This is contrary to everything the Republican Party has stood for since Reagan was President. It is contrary to the will of the people who are members of the Republican Party of Texas. This is known to any who paid attention at last years convention and any who have read our Party Platform. You will find absolutely NO support for the Governors call for the protection of the special interest of the Police Unions and their statewide associations that derive their funds from taxpayers to lobby for the special interest of these Socialist enterprises. To the contrary; Our platform item 23 demands Government Accountability. And I quote; "We call upon the Texas Legislature to eliminate all special collective bargaining statutes for public employees and to hold all public servants accountable to taxpayers through existing civil statutes. We oppose any distribution of taxpayer dollars to unions." See also platform item 124. And I quote:

"The Texas Legislature should ban collective bargaining with police unions." But here we see Officials elected under our brand name promoting the opposite !!!

Our Party is opposed to Socialism. Maybe you do not know but Socialism exists when the government owns and exercises a monopoly in providing a product or service to the public. Policing is a Socialist enterprise. It does not need to be. Much of what police departments do could be privatized. Even patrol and arrest functions performed by licensed police officers can be performed by the same licensed professionals operating under the supervision and management of a private firm that has contracted with a neighborhood or even a large city to provide the service now provided by a Socialized enterprise. The result would be better training, cost saving innovation, cost saving management of the human resources, resulting in lower taxes for the citizens.

The propaganda emanating from Police Union members and racists among our population promoted the absurd conspiracy theory that Black Lives Matter was a plot by Marxists. They tried to revive the Red Scare of the cold war to instill fear in the public. It is absurd. Black Lives Matter is a phrase that says what it means and means what it says.

You have to understand that from the perspective of our fellow citizens of color unlawful acts committed under the cover of a position of public trust appear to be racially motivated. And we know there can be an unconscious, if not overt, racial bias at play. But a more common denominator among the victims of police crimes is their social economic status. The police pick on the poor. The poor cannot fight back. Our wealthy citizens pay the tax that funds the unnecessary prosecution and excessive incarceration. After reading the RPT platform I can say the Republican Party is opposed to this bill.