



# JIM STEINEKE

MAJORITY LEADER

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 5<sup>th</sup> ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

(608) 266-2401  
Toll-Free: (888) 534-0005  
Rep.Steineke@legis.wi.gov

P.O. Box 8953  
Madison, WI 53708-8953

## Testimony on Assembly Bill 330

*Assembly Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety*

*Thursday, May 27, 2021*

Chairman Spiros and members,

I'd like to thank you for holding a hearing on Assembly Bill 330, which would enhance training for Student Resource Officers in Wisconsin schools.

Recently, the report of the Speaker's Task Force Subcommittee on Law Enforcement Policies and Standards was released summarizing the activities and topics of consensus identified through multiple meetings and discussions. As co-chair of the committee, I am incredibly proud of the bipartisan work we've done to have the hard conversations that will make a difference in the lives of people of color in Wisconsin. As we all know, these issues can be incredibly polarizing, yet we have succeeded in bringing the community and law enforcement voices to the table to find consensus and move forward together.

One area that the task force explored was that of school resource officers (SROs). SROs are generally members of a local law enforcement agency that work within schools. While duties of a SROs are typically outlined in a memorandum of understanding between a participating school district and sponsoring law enforcement agency, it became clear to the subcommittee that there are wide variances in the level of service SROs are currently offering, but more importantly, wide variances in the level of training they are receiving.

Oftentimes SROs are expected to serve as an informal counselor and even a de facto educator. For this reason, AB 330 reflects the subcommittee's recommendations to provide additional training prior to serving in a school setting.

Back in 2018, the legislature and Governor Walker created the Office of School Safety within the Department of Justice to help provide local school districts with the tools and training they needed to keep our students safe. Since that time however, there has been a piecemealed effort to hire SROs with no state-set standards of service or training requirements.

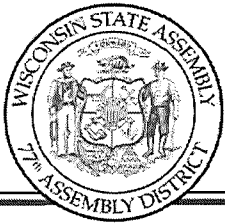
Current law provides basic standards for law enforcement officers, but is silent when it comes SROs. To address this shortcoming, AB 330 would require the DOJ's Office of School Safety to establish standards and approve a certified, statewide training program for all SROs moving forward. The bill further stipulates that all existing SROs would need to partake in this program to remain active as an SRO prior to September 1, 2022.

In keeping with the subcommittee's efforts to increase transparency, the bill would also require that the DOJ maintain a database of all SROs, including information on when each officer completed their

training requirement prescribed by this bill. According to DOJ, the department is aware of 300 SROs currently serving in Wisconsin, however, this information is not closely tracked.

Assembly Bill 330 is the direct result of the hard work and dedication put forth by the members of the Speaker's Task Force Subcommittee on Law Enforcement Policies and Standards. The safety of our students is too important to continue without enhanced training for those officers responsible for this work. When enacted, AB 330 will provide additional peace of mind to parents and students alike that the SROs protecting their schools are best-prepared to meet the specific needs of their jobs.

Finally, I want to thank my task force co-chair, Representative Stubbs, for her work developing these recommendations and members of the task force for their valued input. While there is more work to be done, this and the other task force bills before you today are a great step forward in addressing racial disparities in Wisconsin.



**Thursday May 27<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

**Assembly Bill 330; Relating to: school resource officers**

**Assembly Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety**

Good morning Chairman Spiros and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Assembly Bill 330, which would standardize training for School Resource Officers (SRO's), and mandates that the Office of School Safety maintains a database of all SRO's. This legislation arose from a recommendation by the Speaker's Taskforce on Racial Disparities Subcommittee on Law Enforcement Policies and Standards.

School Resource Officers are utilized in many communities across the state of Wisconsin. However, as of today, there is no standard of training these officers need to receive before they begin working inside of an educational setting. This bill would mandate that SRO's have to learn how their presence is felt in an academic environment, and how they can better serve the students, faculty, and staff of their assigned school.

SRO's can bridge a divide that exists between our young people and law enforcement. Their special position can help foster a positive connection between law enforcement and our next generation. However officers that are not well trained for this position can create a bad impression on a young person, and keep them from trusting law enforcement well into their adulthood. If officers are going to be in our schools, they need to be a resource, not a liability.

In Madison Metropolitan Schools, SRO's have been removed from our high schools. The same has been done in Milwaukee Public Schools, and other schools that do not see the positive impact these officers can have. I do not object to the decisions of these schoolboards or



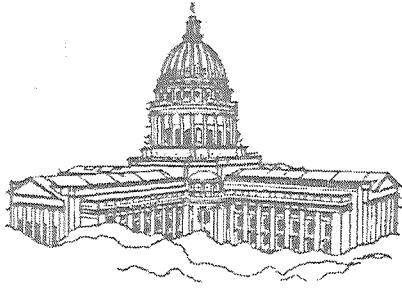
WISCONSIN STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
**Shelia Stubbs**  
77TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

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administrators, but I do believe that had these officers been better trained, the conversation around SRO's would not be as simple.

The simple fact is this: SRO's are in a special position that requires special training. If our students are going to have a police presence in their schools, those officers must be equipped to handle the dynamic and unique environment of an academic institution. This recommendation was agreed upon by community leaders, leaders in law enforcement, and leaders in the faith community because we all understand that SRO's need to be held to a higher standard than most other officers

Thank you members of the committee for taking the time to read my testimony. I hope that you will consider increasing the training standards for our SRO's, and ensuring that our academic institutions are policed only by knowledgeable and effective officers.



# LENA C. TAYLOR

Wisconsin State Senator • 4th District

HERE TO SERVE YOU!

**Written Testimony of Sen. Lena Taylor**  
**Assembly Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety**  
**Public Hearing - AB 330**

Good morning Chair Spiros, Vice-Chair Horlacher and members of the Assembly Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety. Thank you for today's public hearing on AB 330 regarding school resource officers.

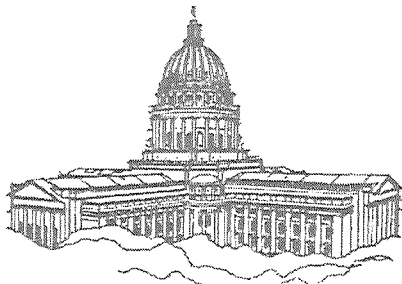
In the wake of highly publicized officer involved shootings, the ongoing debate regarding community policing and the relationship between officers and people of color, many communities are also taking a look at the role of school resource officers. Facing calls for a reevaluation of the presence of police officers in schools, local officials and school districts are making decisions on whether to remove officers from buildings, provide additional training, or more explicitly define responsibilities and standards for officers engaging with youth.

While there have been some extremely disturbing videos that have surfaced regarding use of force incidents involving students and resource officers, we know that these relationships have existed in some school districts successfully for years. In some instances, we have learned that the policies and laws about resource officers vary from state to state, school district to school district.

A brief search yielded the existence of the National Association of School Resource Officers (NASRO). According to an interview with Chase Lyday, president of the Indiana School Resource Officers Association, he said this organization provides best practices that include, agreements that contain clear direction for where weapons are kept, how force is used, when arrests are made, required annual reviews.

In a recent article, St. Joseph County Sheriff William Redmond, of Indiana said "It takes a special person to interact with kids," who worked for 18 years as a DARE officer in schools across the county. "I'm not just going to put someone in schools who's aggressive, who's just going to arrest everybody. I want our officers to engage with kids and show them they're human as well."

The article also noted that officers also were expected to uphold laws within schools, had the authority to handcuff students, make arrests and interview witnesses to an incident without an adult being present.



# LENA C. TAYLOR

Wisconsin State Senator • 4th District

HERE TO SERVE YOU!

SB 330 provides Wisconsin law enforcement, school districts, students, and their families with additional resources or tools to ensure competent and appropriate interactions. The bill's requirement, of the Office of School Safety in the Department of Justice, to develop standards and approve a certified training program for school resource officers is a major step towards creating school environments that are safer for everyone.

Yes, we can debate the pros and cons of police officers in schools. While some worry about the increased frequency of school shootings, others worry about the criminalization of student behavior. I would be less than honest, if I didn't also acknowledge disparities regarding students of color and youth with disabilities. We have seen data that supports the "school-to-prison pipeline," a disturbing national trend wherein children are funneled out of public schools and into the juvenile and criminal justice systems.

What we can do, is ensure that we equip our school resource officers with clear standards and training to better assist them to do their jobs. We can let parents know, that while we use school resource officers in our schools, we also want them trained on how to best interact with their children.

This bill gets us closer to that goal. I hope you will join us in supporting this proposal and thank you for your time.

# WISCONSIN PROFESSIONAL POLICE ASSOCIATION

Law Enforcement Employee Relations Division • Supervisory Officers Relations Division • Civilian Employees Relations Division

## MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** May 27, 2021

**TO:** ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON CRIMINAL JUSTICE & PUBLIC SAFETY

**FROM:** Jim Palmer, Executive Director  
Wisconsin Professional Police Association

**RE:** Support of 2021 Assembly Bill 329 (no-knock search warrant reporting)  
Support of 2021 Assembly Bill 330 (school resource officer training & standards)  
Support of 2021 Assembly Bill 331 (pre-employment psychological testing)  
Support of 2021 Assembly Bill 332 (annual crisis management training)  
Support of 2021 Assembly Bill 333 (crisis program enhancement grants)  
Support of 2021 Assembly Bill 334 (post-critical incident drug testing)  
Support of 2021 Assembly Bill 335 (grants for body-worn cameras)

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Representing over 10,000 members from more than 300 local association affiliates, the Wisconsin Professional Police Association (WPPA) is the state's largest law enforcement group. Our mission is to protect and promote public safety, as well as the interests of the dedicated men and women that serve to provide it. In that vein, we offer this memorandum to express our ardent **SUPPORT** of the above-referenced bills before this committee today.

Since it was first convened last year, the Assembly Speaker's Task Force on Racial Disparities Subcommittee on Law Enforcement Policies and Standards conducted a substantive exploration of ways to strengthen the relationship between law enforcement and the communities it serves. This endeavor marked the first time that advocates for communities of color, faith-based organizations, law enforcement, and lawmakers from both parties all came together to discuss how to evolve policing in Wisconsin. I was honored to serve on that body, and I can personally attest to the invaluable exchange of information, ideas and perspectives that the Task Force served to facilitate.

During the course of the Subcommittee's discussions, the members reached consensus on a series of recommendations that fall within four general categories: (1) use of force by law enforcement; (2) law enforcement oversight and accountability; (3) officer training and standards; and (4) community engagement. Those recommendations are highlighted in an April 21, 2021 public report summarizing the Subcommittee's proceedings. Each of the bills before the Assembly Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety today are among those recommendations.

In support of the specific Task Force legislation before this committee, we would offer the following commentary:

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- **Assembly Bill 329** (no-knock search warrant reporting): In general, law enforcement in Wisconsin believes the use of no-knock warrants is limited, but that they effectively safeguard both officers and the public when the facts of a particular case support their necessity. Conversely, critics of no-knock warrants assert that they are overused, abused, and unnecessary.

In Wisconsin, no cumulative data exists relative to the use of no-knock warrants. As such, the WPPA supports AB 329 to require the Wisconsin Department of Justice to collect data on the use of no-knock search warrants from all state and local law enforcement agencies. In our view, this data will provide policymakers with a better gauge as to whether statutory changes regarding the use of no-knock warrants are needed.

- **Assembly Bill 330** (school resource officer training & standards): Currently, no specific training requirements or standards exist for school resource officers in Wisconsin. While the Wisconsin Department of Justice Office of School Safety offers guidance to school districts in developing SRO programs, the WPPA supports AB 330 to establish uniform minimum standards governing the training and education of school resource officers throughout the state. Such standards would ensure greater uniformity, promote best practices, and help enable the Office of School Safety within the Wisconsin Department of Justice to provide training resources to school resource officers and the school districts that utilize them. Additionally, maintaining consistent training and certification standards would also help promote positive outcomes and reduce legal liability.
- **Assembly Bill 331** (pre-employment psychological testing): It appears that numerous law enforcement agencies in Wisconsin already require individuals pursuing employment as law enforcement officers to undergo psychological testing as a step in the application or screening process. While we recognize legitimate concerns that this measure will represent an unfunded mandate, the WPPA nonetheless supports AB 331. Ensuring the psychological fitness of individuals pursuing employment as law enforcement officers in this state effectively serves the interests of both public safety and officer safety. AB 331 is very similar to legislation introduced during the 2007 and 2009 legislation sessions by Senator Dave Hansen and Representative Ann Hraychuck.
- **Assembly Bill 332** (annual crisis management training): Crisis management training has continued to become increasingly prevalent throughout Wisconsin in recent years. In light of the increasing number of calls for service involving mental health issues, we support AB 332 to establish a uniform statewide recertification training requirement.
- **Assembly Bill 333** (crisis program enhancement grants): Crisis response teams that include mental health professionals with experience in working in a clinical mental health facility are currently used by many counties to respond and provide services to individuals experiencing crisis. The WPPA supports AB 333 to increase the availability and accessibility of grant funding for local governments to establish and enhance collaborative programs between law



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enforcement agencies and behavioral health programs to for responding to mental health crises and other similar calls for service. In our estimation, supporting such innovations in crisis intervention alternatives will lead to better outcomes and the development of meaningful best practices that can guide such collaborations as they continue to proliferate throughout the state.

- **Assembly Bill 334** (post-critical incident drug testing): It is not uncommon for law enforcement agencies in Wisconsin to have policies to provide for the drug and alcohol testing of officers involved in critical incidents. Law enforcement relies upon having the credibility of the people it serves. As such, the WPPA supports AB 334 to establish a uniform standard for such policies and to require that all law enforcement agencies in the state adopt a post-critical incident alcohol and drug test policy in conformance with that standard.
- **Assembly Bill 335** (grants for body-worn cameras): The WPPA has long-supported the proliferation of body-worn camera programs by law enforcement agencies in Wisconsin. According to annual statewide polls commissions by the WPPA, enormous public support also exists for law enforcement's use of body-worn cameras. Not surprisingly, the use of body-worn cameras by law enforcement agencies in Wisconsin has proliferated in recent years. According to a recent report by the Wisconsin Department of Justice, approximately two-thirds of the law enforcement agencies in the state currently utilize the technology to one degree or another. That report also indicated that the costs associated with body-worn camera programs were the most prominent obstacle for agencies that do not currently utilize them. As such, the WPPA supports AB 335 to establish a state grant program to assist law enforcement agencies in implementing body-worn camera programs for patrol officers. While body-worn cameras have limitations, they promote accountability and are vital to any community impacted by a controversial use of force incident.

In enacted, the foregoing measures will serve to increase law enforcement transparency and accountability, enhance the training and qualifications that officers need to meet the demands of their profession, and provide local governments with more resources to better serve the public. We strongly support these measures and urge this committee to approve them as soon as possible.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.



May 27, 2021

To: Chairman Spiros and Members of the Assembly Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety

From: Wisconsin Chiefs of Police Association

Re: Support Legislation from Speaker's Task Force Recommendations

Chairman Spiros, thank you for your willingness to hold a hearing on these important bills. We would also like to take a moment to thank Majority Leader Steineke and Representative Stubbs for authoring these bills and helping lead this important discussion with the Speaker's Task Force on Racial Disparities.

The Wisconsin Chiefs of Police Association was honored to have two members of our leadership team serve as members of the task force and actively participate in this important conversation. The wide range of input from citizens throughout Wisconsin helped produce positive legislation and concepts that our organization is here today to advocate in support of.

WCPA is proud to support Assembly Bills 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, and 335, and once again applauds legislators for working to find bipartisan solutions that help improve our communities.

#### **Assembly Bill 329**

Reporting the use of no-knock entry search warrants means Wisconsin will be able to better collect data on these incidents, providing further transparency to citizens in our communities. This data on the number and the outcome of no-knock entry search warrants will provide a better picture on the usage and results from these warrants.

#### **Assembly Bill 330**

Standardizing minimal training requirements for full time school resource officers is a positive change for our schools and our communities. It is important for an officer to be properly and professionally trained when interacting with children. These changes will make a good program in our schools even better.

### **Assembly Bill 331**

Requiring all agencies to conduct pre-employment psychological evaluations will further ensure our departments are hiring mentally suitable officers. The additional step in the hiring process means our departments will have better officers working to keep our communities safe.

### **Assembly Bill 332**

This legislation requires four hours biennially of additional training for crisis management. Crisis management is a critical skill for officers in departments throughout Wisconsin. Ensuring officers who deal with the public on a day-to-day basis are periodically trained in this important area is positive change for our state.

### **Assembly Bill 333**

Crisis response teams have already demonstrated their value in communities across Wisconsin. This bill would expand this highly successful grant program, allowing for more departments to utilize this as a further tool.

### **Assembly Bill 334**

Critical incidents are the most scrutinized events for law enforcement. This bill would increase transparency to our community members by demonstrating that officers were not impaired during any such event.

### **Assembly Bill 335**

If approved, this legislation will allow more Wisconsin law enforcement departments to buy body worn cameras for their officers. Body worn cameras continue to be a popular form of transparency for the community and officers alike. Body worn cameras help protect all involved – community members and police officers alike.

### **Closing**

The WCPA would like to thank you, committee members and those who served on the Task Force for working together to make good public policy. These proposals will have a positive impact for years to come.

Thank you.



To: Members, Assembly Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety  
From: Badger State Sheriffs' Association  
Wisconsin Sheriffs and Deputy Sheriffs Association  
Date: May 27, 2021  
RE: **Testimony in support of Assembly Bills 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335**

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Chairman Spiros, Vice-Chairman Horlacher, and members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify today. My name is Nate Dreckman, and I am the Grant County Sheriff as well as the President of the Badger State Sheriffs' Association. Together with the Wisconsin Sheriffs and Deputy Sheriffs Association, our organizations represent all of Wisconsin's 72 Sheriffs and over 1,000 deputies and jail officers.

I had the opportunity to be appointed to the Task Force and on behalf of the county law enforcement community, we are grateful to Representatives Steineke and Stubbs for the opportunity to listen, contribute and find consensus on numerous critical policy items impacting law enforcement and the citizens we serve and protect. Our organizations are committed to finding and supporting policies that increase training, utilize best practices, and promote public safety transparency for all Wisconsin residents.

I want to highlight a few of the bills that the Speaker's Task Force has put forward with our support:

- AB 329 (no-knock warrants): AB 329 requires the Department of Justice to collect information about the use of no-knock warrants and unannounced entries by law enforcement in Wisconsin. This information, which will be reported annually, will help policymakers better understand how no-knock warrants are used in Wisconsin and if any changes need to be made to that process.
- AB 331 (psychological evaluation): Law enforcement is a difficult job that is not only physically taxing, but emotionally and psychologically challenging as well. AB 331 will help ensure that law enforcement officers are of stable mental health when they are hired by requiring prospective officers to have a psychological evaluation. According to DOJ, nearly two-thirds of Wisconsin law enforcement agencies already require a psychological evaluation as a condition of employment. The Legislature has considered this policy in the past; a similar bill in 2009 had widespread legislative support but died at the end of session. Finally, we are working on an amendment with the authors and the Wisconsin Psychological Association to ensure this bill follows best practice and streamlines paperwork.
- AB 335 (body camera grants): While some law enforcement agencies in Wisconsin use body cameras, others are unable to afford them. Body cameras can help protect both citizens and law enforcement officers by documenting critical situations. AB 335 will

help more law enforcement agencies acquire body cameras by creating a grant program administered by DOJ. The bill requires agencies that receive a DOJ body camera grant to use and maintain the camera technology, ensuring that the grants are not wasted.

I also want to highlight two more bills from that package that deal with crisis management, an important but highly sensitive aspect of our jobs. Law enforcement officers are almost always the first to respond to urgent events where an individual is reported to be a danger to themselves or others. Our officers work hard to deal with these situations appropriately, but sometimes they result in tragic outcomes. Two bills from the package will help improve the outcome of crisis situations:

- AB 332 (crisis training): Wisconsin law enforcement officers are required to complete 24 hours of recertification training every year. AB 332 will make crisis management training a required part of that training. This will help law enforcement respond more effectively to crisis situations and will help officers stay up to date on best practices for dealing with individuals in crisis.
- AB 333 (crisis program grants): AB 333 expands an already-existing grant program that assists local governments in developing certified mental health crisis teams consisting of both trained law enforcement officers and crisis professionals. These teams will be able to respond more effectively to crisis situations involving mental health than law enforcement can do on its own.

Wisconsin's county law enforcement also supports AB 330, which will provide specific standards and training for law enforcement officers working in schools, and AB 334, which will ensure that officers involved in critical incidents are not compromised using alcohol or illegal drugs.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today and I am happy to answer any questions you might have.



# Wisconsin State Lodge *Fraternal Order of Police*



Ryan Windorff  
President

PO Box 206 West Bend, WI 53095

Shane Wrucke  
Secretary

May 27, 2021

Wisconsin Fraternal Order of Police Testimony in Support of  
AB329, AB330, AB331, AB332, AB333, AB334 and AB335  
Assembly Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety

Thank you, Chairman Spiros and fellow committee members for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Assembly Bills 329, 330, 331, 332, 334, and 335. I also want to extend our appreciation to the Speaker's Task Force on Racial Disparities for their work on these bills.

My name is Ryan Windorff, and I am the President of the Wisconsin State Lodge of the Fraternal Order of Police. With me today is Zak Holschbach, a member of our Green Bay Wisconsin Lodge #2. The Fraternal Order of Police is the world's largest organization of sworn law enforcement officers, with more than 356,000 members in more than 2,100 lodges. The Wisconsin State Lodge is made up of more than 2,300 members in 20 lodges throughout the state. We are committed to improving the working conditions of law enforcement officers and the safety of those we serve through education, legislation, information, community involvement, and employee representation.

The Fraternal Order of Police is working to bring effective, balanced, and fair improvements to policing in America. When citizens don't feel safe around police, we must rebuild community trust. These bills will increase transparency between law enforcement and the public and take needed steps to rebuild that trust.

Assembly Bill 329 would require the Department of Justice to collect information from law enforcement agencies and prepare an annual report to the legislature about the issuance of search warrants and the use of no-knock search warrants. The collection and analysis of data is critical to law enforcement because it guides the decision-making process with respect to deploying police assets, identifying potential problems, and improving public and officer safety. No-knock search warrants are a necessary tool for law enforcement when certain dangerous circumstances arise. As someone who has executed hundreds of search warrants in my career, including no-knock search warrants, I can assure you that the safety of civilians and law enforcement personnel is the top priority when planning these complex operations. Although it is preferable to mitigate threats that would justify a no-knock warrant, sometimes it is unavoidable to meet an immediate law enforcement objective. There has been much discussion about no-knock search warrants after recent high-profile incidents but no collective data about their use and their outcomes. The data collected through the passage of this bill will be instrumental in fostering an honest, fact-based discussion about their prevalence and application.

Assembly Bill 330 would require the Department of Justice's Office of School Safety to develop standards and approve a certified training program for school resource officers and require officers assigned to these roles to complete the training. School resource officers play a unique and necessary role in our criminal justice system. These dedicated professionals are often the first contact with law enforcement that our young people have and



# Wisconsin State Lodge *Fraternal Order of Police*



PO Box 206 West Bend, WI 53095

Ryan Windorff  
President

Shane Wrucke  
Secretary

can play an integral role in the development of a positive relationship with law enforcement as they move through adolescence into adulthood. School resource officers wear many hats: disciplinarian, protector, coach, mentor, teacher, counselor, and friend. Because of these additional roles outside the normal duties of law enforcement officers, additional training on dealing with our youth and adolescent community members would be an asset to the officers as well as the students, schools, and parents they serve. We do recommend amending the bill to allow departments one year from the date of appointment for school resource officers to obtain this training. Additionally, we would like to see a mechanism to assist departments with paying for the costs associated with this training. Department budgets are already strained, and Department of Justice's Division of Law Enforcement Services recently announced that their budget for specialized training is exhausted for this biennial budget and that it is unlikely that they will be able to provide any grants for specialized training in the next biennial budget.

Assembly Bill 331 would require that an individual must submit to a psychological examination to determine their suitability to perform the duties of an officer prior to their appointment as a full-time officer. Law enforcement is a demanding profession, not just physically but mentally. Law enforcement officers often see the worst that humanity has to offer and carry these first and secondhand traumas around with them for life. We believe it is important to make sure that individuals have the capacity to process these stresses and repeated traumas so that they can complete successful careers of service to their communities and enjoy long and healthy retirements. More than half of the law enforcement agencies in Wisconsin already require pre-appointment psychological examinations and those that do not are largely limited by budgetary concerns. This bill would require departments to pay for the fees associated with the examination. For the reasons previously mentioned, we would like to see a mechanism to assist departments with paying these costs.

Assembly Bill 332 would require law enforcement officers to complete at least four hours of crisis management training on a biennial basis, which would count towards the officer's annual 24-hour recertification training requirement. Training both in statutorily mandated topics and others to advance specialized knowledge, skills, and tactics is part of every law enforcement officer's life. We support adding this training requirement as every day the men and women of law enforcement in Wisconsin deal with individuals in some sort of crisis. Many officers already undergo advanced training in dealing with individuals in crisis and this requirement would ensure that officers are staying up to date on best practices and are knowledgeable about the resources available to them in their communities. Again, for the reasons previously mentioned, we would like to see a mechanism to assist departments with paying for this training.

Assembly Bill 333 would expand current grant funding to also award grants to counties and municipalities to establish and enhance law enforcement and behavioral health services emergency response collaboration programs. Numerous communities in Wisconsin are already implementing collaborative response models with law enforcement and behavioral health providers and seeing great success. These collaborations can provide better services to members of the community, reduce repeat calls requiring a law enforcement response, and keep community members and officers safe. We support the expansion of grant funding that would assist additional communities with implementing these important programs.



# Wisconsin State Lodge *Fraternal Order of Police*



PO Box 206 West Bend, WI 53095

Ryan Windorff  
President

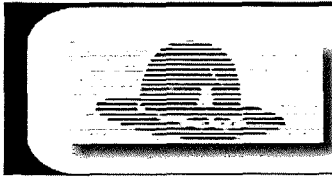
Shane Wrucke  
Secretary

Assembly Bill 334 would require law enforcement agencies to adopt a written policy regarding drug and alcohol testing following an officer-involved critical incident. The policy must require that a law enforcement officer who is involved in an officer-involved critical incident submit to a drug and alcohol test following the incident. We support this bill that would add to existing laws on the investigation of these incidents to ensure transparency and build trust with the communities we serve. We do recommend an amendment that more clearly defines an "officer who is involved in an officer-involved critical incident". In many critical incidents, there are many officers on a scene or playing some role in the incident. Testing of several or even dozens of officers, who may have played the smallest role, would be cost prohibitive for many departments. We believe that prescribing testing for an officer whose individual actions or omissions result in or contribute to the death or great bodily harm of an individual, or a law enforcement officer who discharges a firearm at a person, would more accurately convey the intent of this legislation. Additionally, since this would require agencies to adopt a policy that affects conditions of employment for law enforcement officers, collective bargaining agreements currently in place would need to be modified to accommodate these changes. For this reason, we recommend a delayed enactment to allow employers and bargaining units to make the necessary agreements to be in compliance.

Finally, Assembly Bill 335 would require the Department of Justice to award grants to law enforcement agencies to purchase body cameras to use on law enforcement officers whose primary duties are patrolling duties. Many law enforcement agencies throughout Wisconsin are already deploying body cameras and those that do not are largely limited by budgetary concerns. Depending on the specific type of body camera and data retention practices, body cameras can cost departments \$1,200 or more per year per officer. We find that the use of body cameras has a benefit to law enforcement and increases transparency with the communities we serve. We support grant funding that would expand the availability of these valuable tools.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify in support of these bills and we are happy to answer any questions you may have.





## Wisconsin Troopers' Association

Executive Director – Matt Johnson

Glen Jones – President

4230 East Towne Blvd. #322

Madison, WI 53704

[www.wisconsinTrooper.org](http://www.wisconsinTrooper.org)

To: Chairman Spiros and Members of the Assembly Committee on Criminal Justice and Public Safety

From: Wisconsin Troopers' Association (WTA)

Date: May 27, 2021

RE: **Testimony in support of AB 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, 335**

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Chairman Spiros and committee members, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of Assembly Bills 329, 330, 331, 332, 333, 334, and 335.

The Wisconsin Troopers' Association (WTA) is comprised of more than 500 current and former troopers and inspectors that have a shared commitment and vision to make Wisconsin safer for its citizens and tourists.

Members of the Wisconsin Troopers' Association (WTA) support the efforts of the Subcommittee on Law Enforcement Policies and Standards - part of the Speaker's Task Force on Racial Disparities - for putting together a list of proposed bills that will help create more transparency, accountability, and further public education.

Assembly bills 329-335 are a good collaboration between law enforcement and the community.

We appreciate all the work the task force members did to come together to discuss ways to help evolve policing in Wisconsin. After several months of meetings and discussions we believe the legislation that resulted is a proactive step in the right direction.

The Task Force co-chairs: Representative Steineke (R-Kaukauna) and Representative Stubbs (D-Madison) deserve special recognition for their leadership and work with task force members to find a consensus on legislation that would be meaningful and protect all of Wisconsin's citizens.

The WTA supports these proposed bills and hope this collaborative work continues.

Thank you again for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of these bills and should you have any questions feel free to reach out to us.