



BURKE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Sheriff Alfonzo Williams

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March 27, 2022

Kristin Fulford
Deputy State Director
Office of Senator Raphael Warnock
61 Forsyth Street SW, Suite 3R8
Atlanta, Georgia 30303

RE: INVEST TO PROTECT ACT OF 2022
GRANT PROGRAM

Kristin,

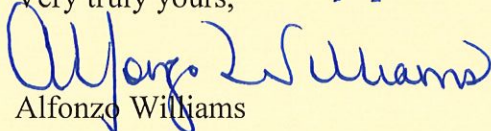
I am writing to endorse Senator Warnock's proposed bill that will create a \$50M grant program. The program allows law enforcement agencies with less than 200 officers to receive funding to provide training for law enforcement officers handling domestic violence incidences, body cameras (purchase, storage and operation), access to mental health resources to local law enforcement, overtime pay associated with mandated training and funding to improve the recruitment and retention of local law enforcement officers. We are excited about the opportunity to solicit help from the Department of Justice's Office of Community Oriented Policing Services to help small agencies who are struggling to compete with recruiting, hiring, training and retaining the best-qualified persons to keep our communities safe. The senator obviously understands our need to improve law enforcement standards through greater transparency to include body-worn cameras, and training in critical areas such as de-escalation techniques and mental health. Furthermore, Senator Warnock is addressing the need for higher education as we work to address matters related to social justice, equity and fairness.

I am pleased the senator is making the process simple and concise as the bill seeks to limit the amount of time (30 minutes) it will take to complete the application. This bill offers hope and financial resources to address our needs. Senator Warnock has done his homework!

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input. We look forward to the passage of this bill and we are grateful that someone in Washington has heard our cry.

In matters of mutual concern, I remain.

Very truly yours,


Alfonzo Williams