

Suggestion letter for current employees (members) to legislature:

DATE

NAME OF LEGISLATOR

ADDRESS

CITY, STATE ZIP

Dear (Senator/Representative) _____,

I am a dedicated employee of the Department of Public Safety. I have served the public for ____ (# of years) as a _____ (job title[s]). My job has required me to _____ (description of duties). Law enforcement is a specialized profession that few qualify and are entrusted to perform. Therefore, I strongly oppose Senate bills 1484, 1485, 1486, and 1487. The generalized bills do not address the specific needs for those who provide police services.

Police work is an industry unlike anything in the private sector. Employees are asked to respond 24/7, often running into tragedy as others are fleeing from it. Because we handle sensitive information, testify in judicial matters and use lethal/less lethal force, my colleagues and I regularly are subjects of administrative and criminal investigations. Police associations, like the Arizona Highway Patrol Association (AHPA), provide an essential service to all Department of Public Safety (DPS) employees. AHPA's primary function is to provide legal coverage to law enforcement officials. It is assistance that the state cannot provide in order to safeguard our families. DPS personnel should be equipped with the resources they need to help them to do their jobs. When almost 100% of DPS employees are in a police union, there is obviously a tremendous need for associations (like AHPA) to help us do their jobs and protect the public.

When Arizona and the nation are seeing record numbers of police deaths and assaults, I would like to see more investments into increased police resources, hiring and maintaining more officers, and added protection to their livelihood. Broadly attacking public safety employees is unproductive. Legislators should be protecting law enforcement, not working against them.

You will not see me striking, because it is against the law. I would never protest, because my job is essential to citizens 24/7. I will not be testifying in a legislative hearing, because my freedom of speech right is very limited. But, take this as a letter from a citizen, pleading to you that police employees should not have their rights limited further. Please also consider me as a law enforcement resource. Contact myself or AHPA before making broad decisions about an industry most people know little about.

As a taxpayer and constituent, I urge you to vote no on Senate bills 1484, 1485, 1486 and 1487. Public safety is specialized industry that should not be generalized with other professions. I encourage you to keep the integrity of police work by allowing law enforcement the resources they need.

Sincerely,

NAME

ADDRESS

EMAIL

PHONE NUMBER