

# **ASSOCIATION OF CHIEFS OF POLICE MASSACHUSETTS STATE UNIVERSITIES**

## **Statement in Response to Public Calls to Eliminate, Disarm, or Defund Massachusetts State University Police Departments**

The Association of Chiefs of Police of the Massachusetts State Universities (ACOP) is aware of recent calls on the part of a few organizations and individuals to either eliminate, disarm, or defund some or all of the police departments at the several state universities.

Although we wholeheartedly agree that sensible reforms would benefit all of law enforcement, we do not agree with and cannot endorse the elimination, disarming, or defunding of state university police departments. Elimination, disarming, or defunding state university police are not reasonable or proportional responses to what are unquestionably legitimate concerns about policing nationwide – and would most certainly result in our campuses becoming much less secure and safe overall.

State university police departments exist so that the very highest level of protection and service is afforded to students and others. We are integrated into the structure of our universities and know our communities well. Our proximity and our knowledge of our campuses allow us to respond within minutes to any reported emergency or act of violence. We are specially trained to serve our university communities and we have developed unique policies adapted to policing in a campus environment. We are oriented to protect rather than simply prosecute and collectively we have embraced a least intrusive educational model of policing. In short, our departments follow industry standards and best practice models and are exceptionally well placed to serve and protect our campus communities while supporting the overall educational mission of our respective campuses.

Proposals to eliminate, disarm, or defund state university police departments do not consider the realities of university life or the development of professional university policing. If enacted, such proposals would no doubt result in diminished safety for the students, faculty, staff and others on the campuses that we are committed to serving and protecting with integrity and professionalism.

*June 16, 2020*

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