

Kathy Cortopassi, Feb 28, 2024, 7:09 AM

Please add this email to the public testimony concerning this bill.

I am against it. Not the spirit of it, but the effect of it.

I understand the spirit behind it. Some – many – believe that police target people. Maybe some police do. But the majority do not. Not these days. In fact, police, allow many things to go past them than pulling people over because their own lives are important to them. More than ever, nowadays is just going to work the cause of your own death. Would you want to go to work if that was what you faced every day? Could you kiss your wife goodbye knowing this may be your last kiss? What about your kids? Saying goodbye to them could be the last time you do so?

Police are there to protect us. Drugs like fentanyl. Do you research. I bet plenty of people have died in Montgomery county from fentanyl just in the last 12 months. From guns. It is not legal gun owners that are doing the majority of shooting other humans. So we want to get illegal guns off the streets. But this potential new law will do the opposite. It will allow more fentanyl to flow into the county and more guns.

As a court reporter in court, I see the effects of only the crimes and criminals who get caught. Those are dealing with felonies. I did work in state court before my current job in federal court.

Before you vote, yes on this bill, take a week and go to a few trials in state and federal court that involve drugs and guns. Listen to the victims of these crimes. The heart.. wrenching, tearjerking stories. And then ask yourself if you can take away one of the tools police have to help. Keep us safe.

Let me repeat that.

To help keep us safe.

To help keep our spouses safe.

To help keep our children safe.

Don't tell me, you are obeying your oath when you took office, you vote for this bill. You will be making liars of yourselves.

You are there to protect the finances and the health and safety of residents in your area.

Ask a police officer, you know, privately, one on one, if they have any experience pulling someone over in a traffic stop and finding drugs and guns. Finding people with warrants for their arrest. I bet you will get a 100% response from every one you speak to. And yet you want to take away this tool. If you want them to not target people, give them paid training, much more of it, from the segment of society who claims to be targeted. Pay for open discussion forums, listening sessions. Make this be part of their job, attending these. Make the audience members rate the officers on questions they asked, attention they gave, respect they showed to the audience. And allow that to go in their personnel record.

But don't take away tools. You are already making the job one that people do not want. The criminals already outnumber the police.

Is crime going down in our county or up?

And if you want to pay for something, pay each preteen and teenager to go to job training. Pay them after they complete the training. Pay the plumbers to train them plumbing. Train the electricians to train them in basic electricity. And so on all the trades. Trade pay the business owners to teach them how to start a business. Pay coaches to teach them how to have confidence in themselves, especially if no one else does.

These kids won't feel like they have any other choice, but to do crime.

Many of the (mostly) men that are facing conviction in my courtroom chose a life of crime, because it is what they knew from the neighborhood, from their friends, because it was easy money. They had self-confidence, trade skills, a good mentor, their lives would have been different.

Spend your money helping people in that way, not taking tools away from the police.

With so many moms and dads having to work two jobs in order to afford living in this county, they don't have time to pay attention to their kids. Do something for their kids. Don't make it look like you are doing something by just passing laws.

Laws that truly help criminals. Even if it sounds good, makes you feel like you are doing something good.

Or, vote for this law, and others like it, and become another Chicago. You're on your way. I moved out of the Chicago area, so I know.

Have you ever done a ride along with the police officer? Why don't you do one of those before you agree to vote for this bill. Especially on the night shift. On a Friday night or Saturday night. I double dog dare you.

PS

My dad was a police officer, was offered the rank of chief twice, but stayed content as a captain. I saw all sides of the police force. They are not all innocent; they are human. They are not demons, but you, and many others, are demonizing them. The hell and stress they go through, I don't think my father would've stayed a police officer to reach the rank of captain if he had to work in today's environment.

Kathy Cortopassi

(resident of Leisure World.)