

No one should find racism and internalized bias acceptable in our police. Racism and internalized bias are a threat to public safety. By not taking extreme and serious preventative measures to ensure the police is not recruiting racists the police is allowing the murder of Black people and other People of Color. I do not want my tax dollars to pay for a police system that makes room for white supremacy and thus allows for murder and injury of POC. Police culture must change so that it does not allow for racism and internalized bias and HB 2936 is a good first step.

We know that police culture is saturated with racism and white supremacy. I have heard countless first hand accounts of POC being threatened and harassed by police in their day to day lives and of the brutality they have faced recently in peaceful protests. There is data showing how racism influences everything from traffic stops to how police respond to mental health calls with force. The bottom line is people are dying at the hands of police because they allow their internal bias and racism to influence how they respond and what they perceive as a threat. It is unacceptable. It should be a given that we want to ensure our police do not perceive skin color as a threat. If someone wants to join the force to protect and serve the people they should have no objection to proving they intend to serve everyone (not just those they see as worthy based on race). I am in favor of HB 2936 because our police should be actively seeking to ensure it does not allow racism to fester, because the death and injury of POC due to internalized bias and racism is unacceptable, and because it is a common sense basic step police should be taking to ensure basic quality of those charged with protecting and serving the public.