

Submitter: Calista Songstad
On Behalf Of:
Committee: Senate Committee On Judiciary
Measure: SB779

I strongly oppose this bill as written and request that it not be moved forward. Over the past three years the law enforcement coverage in our state has plummeted. They have been subject to vaccine mandate and accusations over generalities instead of personal character. Some have resigned because of the stress of this trying time. So, increasing the qualification to apply or retain a job to an expensive college degree that would not provide job related improvement is a terrible idea. Forcing this in a timeline that suggests they would have to apply for college immediately with or without the funds set aside, personal family obligations or other considered is a set up for a huge failure for all of our cities coverage particularly rural areas that may not have a school nearby. Is it okay if their degree is in history or science? Or would actually put emphasis on criminal justice? Would you help them pay for it?

Instead of making it harder to get employed or stay employed in this already difficult job, I would kill this bill and move onto helping fund getting good officers trained through the training facilities, get all officers training on how to safely handle every stop that could now involve Fentanyl, and start getting K-9's who can search these drugs trained up and available. While you are at it, you should repeal measure 110 so that when these drugs are found, these people actually get help instead of enabled.