



Community Advisory Committee on Law Enforcement Oversight

March 26, 2021

Dear Chair Ormsby and members of the House Appropriations committee,

On behalf of the King County Community Advisory Committee on Law Enforcement Oversight ([CACLEO](#)), we would like to submit our comments in favor of bill SSB 5066. [CACLEO members](#) are appointed by the King County Executive and confirmed by the County Council to serve as liaisons between the [Office of Law Enforcement Oversight](#) (OLEO) and the communities it serves. Further, CACLEO is [charged](#) with providing advice to OLEO, the Sheriff, and the Council on systemic problems and opportunities for improvement in the law enforcement practices of the King County Sheriff's Office (KCSO). CACLEO is composed of a diverse membership to reflect King County.

SSB [5066](#) (concerning a peace officer's duty to intervene) provides a clear standard for our law enforcement to uphold the law and intervene if another officer's use of force is excessive. The duty to intervene is not novel. It has been recognized and adopted as policy by model codes ([Lexipol](#)), many jurisdictions like Renton and the State of Connecticut, and courts [*El v. City of Pittsburgh*, 2020 WL 5541155 (3rd Cir. 2020)]. The death of George Floyd makes clear the importance of making this policy principle a clear law in the State of Washington. SSB 5066 also requires officers to report non-trivial misconduct and protects the reporting officer from retaliation. Washington State must reduce unnecessary use of force by law enforcement in a safe and responsible way and build the trust between law enforcement and our communities. CACLEO strongly supports SSB 5066 as it will establish a strong and consistent statewide standard for duty to intervene. Building cultures in law enforcement that are consistent with their critical role in public safety demands clarity and consistency. Law enforcement officers are human and can get caught up in the moment. Having an expectation that they will be supported by their partners in the right actions should help. A reduction in law enforcement use of force will help us heal the distrust that exists in many communities and improve public safety for all. We in King County have experienced too many incidents in which the use of force including deadly force have bred distrust and hostility. SSB 5066 is another step toward a better future for public safety for our state. Thank you for this opportunity to comment and thank you for your efforts to improve public safety and trust for all residents of Washington. We, the King County Community Advisory Committee on Law Enforcement Oversight, strongly encourage you to move forward to enact SSB 5066.

Respectfully submitted,

Abiel Woldu, Committee Chair
King County Community Advisory Committee on Law Enforcement Oversight
CACLEO9@kingcounty.gov

Vicente Omar Barraza, CACLEO
Anja Helmon, CACLEO
Nick Allen, CACLEO
Steve Miller, CACLEO
Melodie Reece Garcia, CACLEO
Kimberly Lisk, CACLEO

CC: Members of the House Appropriations Committee

Adrienne Wat, Interim Director, King County Office of Law Enforcement Oversight
Girmay Zahilay, King County Councilmember District 2, Chair of the King County Law and Justice Committee
Melani Pedroza, Clerk of the King County Council
tim.ormsby@leg.wa.gov; steve.bergquist@leg.wa.gov; mia.gregerson@leg.wa.gov; Nicole.macri@leg.wa.gov;
drew.stokesbary@leg.wa.gov; Kelly.Chambers@leg.wa.gov; Chris.Corry@leg.wa.gov; Drew.MacEwen@leg.wa.gov;
Matt.Boehnke@leg.wa.gov; Michelle.Caldier@leg.wa.gov; Bruce.Chandler@leg.wa.gov; Frank.Chopp@leg.wa.gov;
Eileen.Cody@leg.wa.gov; Laurie.Dolan@leg.wa.gov; Mary.Dye@leg.wa.gov; Joe.Fitzgibbon@leg.wa.gov;
Noel.Frame@leg.wa.gov; Drew.Hansen@leg.wa.gov; Paul.Harris@leg.wa.gov; Larry.Hoff@leg.wa.gov;
Cyndy.Jacobsen@leg.wa.gov; Jesse.Johnson@leg.wa.gov; Debra.Lekanoff@leg.wa.gov; Gerry.Pollet@leg.wa.gov;
Skyler.Rude@leg.wa.gov; Cindy.Ryu@leg.wa.gov; Joe.Schmick@leg.wa.gov; Tana.Senn@leg.wa.gov;
Larry.Springer@leg.wa.gov; Mike.Steele@leg.wa.gov; monica.stonier@leg.wa.gov; Pat.Sullivan@leg.wa.gov;
Steve.Tharinger@leg.wa.gov; Adrienne.Wat@kingcounty.gov; Girmay.Zahilay@kingcounty.gov;
melani.pedroza@kingcounty.gov