

CAPITOL OFFICE
STATE CAPITOL, ROOM 425
JEFFERSON CITY, MO 65101
TELEPHONE (573) 751-4106
FAX: (573) 751-0467
EMAIL: BRIAN.WILLIAMS@SENATE.MO.GOV
WWW.SENATE.MO.GOV/MEM14



MISSOURI SENATE
JEFFERSON CITY

BRIAN WILLIAMS
14TH DISTRICT

COMMITTEES
COMMERCE, CONSUMER PROTECTION,
ENERGY & THE ENVIRONMENT
GOVERNMENT REFORM
GUBERNATORIAL APPOINTMENTS
PROGRESS AND DEVELOPMENT
SMALL BUSINESS & INDUSTRY
TRANSPORTATION, INFRASTRUCTURE AND
PUBLIC SAFETY

July 10, 2020

The Honorable Mike Parson
Governor of Missouri
State Capitol Building
Room 218
Jefferson City, Missouri 65102

Dear Governor Parson:

As elected leaders, I believe it is our duty to ensure our state is a safe place for all Missourians to live, work and raise a family. This responsibility also includes making difficult decisions and examining the systems we have in place with a critical eye to ensure our state government responsibly serves every resident of our great state.

In light of recent events in our country, I have been thinking more about policing and law enforcement policies. As I reflect on our state and my own experiences with law enforcement, I believe reforms must be enacted regarding law enforcement and the tactics they employ. In my opinion, it is imperative that you call an extraordinary legislative session to address policing, and more specifically, use-of-force tactics. These issues are extremely important to me personally, especially since I am the only Black male senator to serve the state of Missouri in the past 20 years.

During the upcoming legislative session, I intend to file legislation regarding these very same issues; however, I believe our state cannot wait a day longer when it comes to reforming our law enforcement agencies. As we look at ways to improve policing in our state, I believe we should require law enforcement officers to carry an occupational license, like many professionals in our state. This would ensure that officers, throughout Missouri, meet a minimum and uniform training standard before being allowed to police our streets and communities. I also believe now is the time for a statewide ban on the use of chokeholds. George Floyd would still be alive today if these tactics were banned in Minnesota. If this barbaric and inhuman tactic causes just one more death, it would be one too many. In addition, I believe members of our state's law enforcement community should be required to receive training in de-escalation tactics.

Page Two

These reforms are not about defunding the police or allowing lawlessness to run rampant in our streets, they are about improving the relationship between law enforcement and the citizens they swore an oath to serve and protect. In order to move our state forward, I believe it is critical that we do everything we can to restore the trust between law enforcement and the communities they serve, specifically Black communities throughout our state. Additionally, I believe these reforms will help protect our law enforcement officers. As leaders, it is up to us to work together to enact positive change in our state, and I am asking for your help to achieve this goal.

I would enjoy the opportunity to discuss this matter further with you. Please do not hesitate to contact my office at 573-751-4106 with any questions or concerns you may have. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brian Williams". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "B" and a long horizontal flourish at the end.

BRIAN WILLIAMS
MO State Senator
District 14 – St. Louis County