



September 29, 2020

Representative Robert A. DeLeo
Speaker of the Massachusetts House of Representatives
State House, Room 356
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Speaker DeLeo,

Thank you again for the congratulatory remarks you offered during our “Women Power The Vote: Celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the League of Women Voters” event at the State House on February 6, 2020.

To commemorate the 100th anniversary of women’s suffrage and the founding of the League of Women Voters, in our mission to empower voters and defend democracy, we are making our voice heard to ensure the passage of police reform and accountability legislation in Massachusetts. Our 48 local MA leagues and 3,050 members stand as allies and in partnership with the 100+ grassroots advocacy organizations in this fight for justice.

Where Massachusetts leads, the nation follows. Thanks to your courageous leadership, Massachusetts passed comprehensive gun safety legislation in 2014, and became a model for other states. When Massachusetts affirmed marriage equality, the nation followed. We must again lead the nation to pass meaningful and strong police reform and accountability legislation as quickly as possible.

League of Women Voters national president Dr. Deborah Ann Turner states, “We must address the ongoing and inexcusable violence against Black people in our country. We strongly oppose the systemic racism that allows violence like this to occur repeatedly.” We advocate against systemic racism in the justice system and for preventing excessive force and brutality by law enforcement. We advocate within every level of government to eradicate systemic racism and the harm that it causes.

Our members remain steadfast and engaged in our commitment. They are meeting with their police chiefs to correct the disinformation spread by the four main police unions. Additionally, we have hosted three House members—Rep. Liz Miranda, Rep. Nika Elugardo, and Rep. Carlos Gonzalez—to educate our membership on the urgency and necessity of this bill. We strongly support the Ten Point Plan outlined by the Massachusetts Black and Latino Legislative Caucus.

Mr. Speaker, we applaud your public commitment to passage of a police reform bill this session. As we move into October, we strongly urge the conference committee to release the final bill. It would be a travesty if a disinformation campaign sponsored by police unions prevented the positive change necessary to move forward. When the final bill is released, our members will be contacting their legislators to vote affirmatively for Black lives.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Judith Zaunbrecher".

Judith Zaunbrecher
Co-President

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Elizabeth L. Foster-Nolan".

Elizabeth Foster-Nolan
Co-President