

SENATE COMMITTEE OF REFERENCE AMENDMENT

Committee on Judiciary.

SB22-005 be amended as follows:

1 Amend printed bill, page 2 after line 1 insert:

2 **"SECTION 1. Legislative declaration.** (1) The general
3 assembly finds and declares that:

4 (a) According to the centers for disease control and prevention,
5 peace officers are fifty-four percent more likely to commit suicide, with
6 suicide being the second leading cause of death among peace officers
7 following COVID-19;

8 (b) The Invisible Wounds Project found that one in four peace
9 officers suffers from post-traumatic stress disorder;

10 (c) Good mental and psychological health is essential for peace
11 officers to effectively keep Colorado and local communities safe from
12 crime and violence;

13 (d) Improving mental health resiliency can also help peace
14 officers prepare for, recover from, and adapt to stress and adversity;

15 (e) The experiences of peace officers and public safety mental
16 health professionals, along with scientific research, show that providing
17 peace officers with mental health support services following traumatic
18 incidents promotes positive outcomes;

19 (f) Allowing law enforcement agencies to hire full-time
20 behavioral health professionals can aid in addressing confidentiality
21 concerns, improve cultural competencies, and help law enforcement
22 agencies systematically identify and refer peace officers to mental health
23 services;

24 (g) Increased availability to behavioral health services will
25 increase peace officers' empathy toward those experiencing mental health
26 crises and provide the tools and awareness peace officers need to improve
27 how they handle difficult situations;

28 (h) Improved access to behavioral health support services through
29 peer support programs and other programs reduces barriers peace officers
30 may have toward behavioral health support services and will increase
31 their cultural competency in behavioral health support practices;

32 (i) Cross-training peace officers in behavioral health and
33 providing student loan repayment options for current and former certified
34 peace officers to receive this training can increase empathy; and

35 (j) While behavioral health training is essential for peace officers,
36 there is no training or experience that can fully prepare them for the types
37 of calls and situational challenges they face on a daily basis. Investing in
38 tools and programs to help peace officers manage the stressors that
39 accompany their work can have a positive impact on peace officers'
40 mental health, as well as on community outcomes.

1 (2) Therefore, the general assembly declares that investing in
2 additional mental and behavioral health funding and training for peace
3 officers will improve interactions between peace officers and members
4 of the community, have positive public safety outcomes, and help peace
5 officers recover from on-the-job trauma in order to handle the daily
6 stressors of their job."

7 Renumber succeeding sections accordingly.

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