

## Senator Tim Knopp Vote Explanation on HB 4203:

As we all reflect on George Floyd and the evil act that took his life we must move to individual and collective action. In my world that's as a bi-partisan Senator and leader on issues important to those I represent.

I voted yes on HB 4203 and all the other accountability bills in support of my colleagues in the people of color caucus because action on choke holds and other police accountability measures shouldn't wait. They have waited long enough.

I had a bill banning choke holds that would be stronger than this measure but minority members weren't allowed to introduce bills during the special session. That's why I voted against the session rules that also locked the public out of in person testimony at the Capitol.

We need to do more as this should be seen as just a beginning and I pledge my support in that effort. We need more and better investments in mental health services, addiction services along with providing more help for those that find themselves homeless and hungry. We must do more to treat our homeless community members with respect.

George Floyd did not deserve to die in police custody. This act was an act against George Floyd and an act against humanity. It was an act that said George's life didn't have value. Regardless of color, all life is of value. We must speak out and drive out these evil acts against humanity by being a loving community.

We may not agree on many things but one thing we must agree on is that all life is sacred and George Floyd was a black man and his life mattered. We all have a long way to go to stamp out racism. Let's start where we live and with our ability to influence others. It is our individual responsibility to provide the light that drives out this darkness and joining together in peace we will restore justice for all.

I support the use of body cameras to protect officers and the public. I voted for Senator Lew Frederick's body camera legislation, House Bill 2571 in 2015. I will work to help fund cameras for local officers.

I also support a National use of force database that will create a record of injury or deadly force incidents that will help law enforcement keep bad cops out of our law enforcement agencies.

In terms of transparency, I support additional legislation to make sure each agency has all the records they need when hiring new officers. No more hiding information or conveniently leaving out important facts when hiring occurs.

There are many other legislative concepts I can and will support and I look forward to working with fellow legislators to make all our community members and police officers safer.