



## **Public Safety Committee Public Hearing**

**February 15, 2021**

### **HB 6302 – An Act Concerning the Regionalization of Certain Public Safety Emergency Telecommunications Centers and a Study of Consolidation.**

Good Morning Chairman Bradley, Chairwoman Horn and Members of the Public Safety Committee. My name is Zak Leavy and I am a legislative and political coordinator for AFSCME Council 4. We represent 30,000 public and private sector employees including municipal dispatchers. We are submitting testimony on HB 6302, An Act Concerning the Regionalization of Certain Public Safety Emergency Telecommunications Centers and a Study of Consolidation.

HB 6302 would require the Commissioner of DESPP to collaborate with municipal CEO's and municipal public safety leaders to develop a plan for consolidating public safety answering points that would serve populations of 40,000 or above. We do not oppose regionalization of services to help deliver them in a different manner. However, we are concerned about it being used to reduce benefits for public employees from where they currently are when regionalization or consolidation is discussed. We urge the committee to include someone from the exclusive representative of the impacted workers to any committee that is developing plans related to regionalization. This would help instill confidence in the impacted workers that their interests have been represented and that it is not being used as a pretext for lowering wages and/or benefits.