

October 17, 2020
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Dear Mr President:

I am concerned about emergency response. Too many US communities respond to all crises in the same way with armed police but different problems call for different responses. Mental health, homeless and drug issues frequently lead to 911 calls and such problems are likely to be increasing with people stuck at home, poverty rising rapidly and an ongoing overdose epidemic. At the same time trust in police has been damaged by ICE and DHS impersonation and the continuing police murders. The massive protests around such violent incidents have also started a conversation about alternatives and while Berkeley is studying such options on its own a national program such as Sen. Van Hollen and Rep. Bass have just introduced would make local action much easier.

Please assure me that you will support community based crisis response.

I am very proud to be a US resident and a large part of that derives from our coherent federalism.

Sincerely,
Eric Babson