

To the members of the SC State House:

My name is Shadae and I'm a 24-year old resident of Greenville.

I'm writing to you today to ask that the use of no-knock warrants be permanently banned in the state of South Carolina.

The temporary ban issued by the South Carolina Supreme Court is proof that the case of Breonna Taylor is forever etched in the psychological fabric of this state and this country, regardless of whether we think the officers were justified in their actions or not. I am asking that we take it a step further and permanently ban this dangerous and increasingly arcane practice.

I am aware of the current plight of law enforcement officers: the high turnover rates, the stigma, the decreasing budget, the low salary, the expectation of officers to respond to everything from car accidents to domestic disputes. Not to mention the high volume of paperwork involved when filing incident reports.

I am no tax expert nor am I qualified to speak on the ins and outs of police funding and expenditures. I will therefore rely on common sense when I assert: There is no cost associated with prohibiting officers from barging into a citizen's home unannounced. This ban may also help to alleviate law enforcement officers of some of their many duties and responsibilities.

While the media would have us believe that members of society must stand on either one of two sides: pro-police or anti-police, Democrat or Republican, I can confidently say that I fail to see a more bi-partisan issue than this one. The execution of no-knock warrants poses a threat to the lives of citizens and law enforcement officers alike.

Although most police departments have not executed such warrants in years, I believe a permanent ban will ensure consistency in law enforcement practices across the state and close any loopholes, should such a warrant be requested in the future.

In the midst of these tumultuous times, it is imperative that we work together as a community to protect and serve and keep our loved ones safe. A permanent ban on no-knock warrants can do just that and is the first step to rebuilding trust between law enforcement officers and the communities they serve.

Thank you

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be the name 'Shadae', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.