

My name is Adrienne Benjamin, and I live in New Britain. I am pleased to see the reforms being proposed to improve the role of police officers in Connecticut. I have read a summary of the proposals, but not the entire bill. I have 2 suggestions.

Increase education about Autism and Intellectual Disability.

It is likely that in an emergency situation, those with either (or both) of those disabilities could be too confused, or frightened to comply with officers' orders. In addition, those with severe Autism often have intense behavioral outbursts that might be interpreted by an officer as disrespectful or defiant, when it's more likely that the person is internally out of control and needs a calm, patient response to help them de-escalate.

Second, in general, more emphasis on de-escalation techniques.

Thank you,

Adrienne Benjamin