

Dear Members of the Committee,

I write as a lifetime resident of the State of Connecticut who currently resides in the Town of Canton. I am writing in disapproval of this bill. I, just like most police officers, are against bad cops and bad choices made by bad cops. Last year, our State Police only used force in 0.02% of all interactions with the public. As tv media & social media continues to highlight the bad behaviors by bad cops or using video of good police officers out of context, good police officers are afraid to do anything these days. They are afraid of being portrayed as a bad cop. They are afraid to do anything that may end up saving their own lives because it may be used against them.

These officers are being ambushed all over the country and killed.

Now we, as the State of Connecticut, want to take more rights away from our police officers. Taking away their qualified immunity is not the solution. They have very few rights left protecting them. Our safety will be put at risk by taking away their qualified immunity.

Officers are already second guessing the way they respond to calls and situations despite their training because of the way they will be judged. By taking away their qualified immunity they will hesitate and look the other way in order to not risk everything and be frivolously sued. Qualified immunity does not protect police officers who have been convicted of a crime when sued regarding that crime. If we pass this bill, officers will resign all over the state. No one is going to want to be a police officer if there is nothing to protect them.

People will move out of this state knowing that there are not enough officers in the State of Connecticut to protect them or become concerned that their safety is at risk. I want to be protected by good police officers. I cannot stay here if I do not feel safe. Look at our neighbors in New York. It has become a place of violence. Our cities will become a place of violence as well. We have seen lots of tragedies in this state with active shooters. Do we really want our police to hesitate in the those situations, like Sandy Hook or HDI?

What about home invasions or domestic violence? Please, I urge you to vote no against this bill. Please do the right thing for our police officers and our residents.

Thank you for your time and consideration, Adrienne Wolmetz Canton, Connecticut