

Dear legislators,

Please vote no to Draft LCO 3471. The bill seeks to decimate law enforcement, first by eliminating qualified immunity, and then by limiting police officer's role in protecting and serving.

I understand this is a polarizing time placing a spotlight on all law enforcement officers, both good and unfortunately bad. While I know a very small number of officers do sometimes do the wrong thing I do not believe that reflects the current state of Connecticut law enforcement.

I believe we should always strive to be better, that there is always room for improvement. However, this bill is not the answer and actually poses more risk than effective change. I stand by our local police. I am thankful for their commitment and service. Please don't use this current climate to implement a legislation that will have sweeping implications to the future of law and order in the state without proper research and discussions from both sides. Please take the time to listen to all the professionals who leave their homes everyday not knowing if they will return home safely.

By eliminating qualified immunity for police officers you are opening them up to be sued simply for doing their jobs. Qualified immunity is not there to protect the very small number of officers who do the wrong thing, it is there to protect the officers who do the right thing every day. Imagine if you went to work everyday not knowing if you are going to be sued, personally, for simply doing your job. I believe you, as a government official, have qualified immunity. Is this something you also want to give up? Not to mention the strain, the inevitable influx of lawsuits will place on an already over taxed and understaffed Connecticut court system. Please protect your constituents, this bill is not in the best interest of the public.

Thank you for your time and support,

Sincerely,

Annette, Farmington CT