

July 15, 2020

Re: **SUPPORT of LCO 3471**

Dear Senator Winfield, Co-Chair Stafstrom, Vice Chair Kissel, Vice Chair Blumenthal, Ranking Member Kissel, Ranking Member Remimbaz, Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee,

Thank you for having this listening session. Thank you, Sen. Winfield, for your incredible leadership on this vital matter.

I'm writing in SUPPORT of LCO 3471. I am the daughter of an Enfield police officer, and in my experience, most police officers are empathetic, professional, fair, and kind. Yet there is undisputed evidence of abuses of power and gross injustices that occur with alarming regularity. There are also the matters of suboptimal services (due to lack of training) and massive fiscal waste.

I am particularly supportive of the proposals to:

- Require evaluation of **using social workers** to respond to certain calls or to accompany a police officer on certain calls.
 - Eugene, Oregon's CAHOOTS program is a success story, an innovative way to **reduce police brutality**—sending qualified mental health professionals instead of police where situations warrant—that also **saves taxpayers millions** of dollars per year. (<https://www.npr.org/2020/06/10/874339977/cahoots-how-social-workers-and-police-share-responsibilities-in-eugene-oregon>)
- Add **implicit bias training** to the required police training components.
- Require police officers to receive **mental health assessments** at least every five years,
and
- **Accountability provisions**, such as revocation of an officer's certification for "conduct undermining public confidence in law enforcement," including (1) discriminatory conduct, (2) falsifying reports, or (3) racial profiling in violation of state law.

For George Floyd, Elijah McClain, and far too many others, I thank you for your time and consideration in working to fix what's broken.

Yours truly,

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