

Dear Committee Members,

I strongly oppose “ Draft LCO #3471
An Act Concerning Police Accountability”

This attempt to subvert our state government process is unacceptable!

The internet link to “ Draft LCO #3471
An Act Concerning Police Accountability” is a broken link, so I will submit
testimony based on various releases I have read in it’s regard.

1. Simply stated, this is NOT a reform bill. It is an anti-police bill.
2. Police officers are needed, especially in this state, as the legislature has stripped too many rights from the citizens already.
3. Qualified Immunity DOES NOT protect police officers who have been convicted of a crime when sued regarding that crime. This is a false narrative.
4. Do we want our law enforcement professionals hesitating due to litigious fears because of the proposed end to qualified immunity?
5. I believe passage of this garbage legislation will result in a massive wave of resignations or retirements. This will leave us with less experienced and understaffed police departments and that impacts every resident’s safety.
6. We see what is happening in New York City with this wave of heinous murders and other violent crime. We would likely be next for this.

While every reasonable resident of Connecticut firmly supports racial equality and reasonable measures of police accountability, this proposed legislation is not the way to do this. I would suggest more training in de-escalation techniques and fewer laws that require police action beyond a summons. For example warrants for non-violent offenses.

So much of our criminal justice system is broken, Why not concentrate the legislatures time and effort on actually making meaningful changes to this overall system instead of focusing on punitive actions toward our police that will make them less effective and cause many new problems and safety hazards going forward.