

2020-07-17

Judiciary Committee,

I want to first start off by saying thank you and I hope you take into consideration what people in the Law Enforcement field have to say regarding this bill. As a police officer with the Town of Glastonbury I am fervently against the Police Accountability and Reform bill that is being proposed. The bill in my opinion will do nothing to actually help the profession of law enforcement or build meaningful relationships with the community. It instead, undermines police officers by giving us random tests ie. mental (you insinuate there is something wrong with us mentally), drug (you insinuate we are dependent upon drugs). What you should do instead is offer open lines of communication and support to police officers by trying to erase the stigma surrounding mental health especially in police departments. (WE ARE TAX PAYING CITIZENS OF THIS STATE TOO SO TREAT US AS SUCH.) I am also disappointed that it is even a consideration by this committee to rid police of qualified immunity. Firstly, the narrative being pushed against qualified immunity is a lie (big surprise). Qualified Immunity does not protect a police officer who was deemed in the wrong, it protects police officers while making split second decisions with their best intention forward judged by what another reasonable officer would do at the time. (facts matter)..Instead of Black Lives Matter or Blue Lives Matter, you should come out and say Facts Matter and Mutual Respect Matters, which is what is needed to fix this problem that we are currently in. You judge us for the few bad apples across the country and paint us all with one negative broad stroke, but everyone else gets a pass. You judge us all on the actions of a few and it's acceptable, but if officers did that (which we wouldn't) it would be a major issue. My suggestion to you before you go off and pass a bill that in my option was crafted to appease a rambunctious crowd for cheap political points is to do several ride alongs with police officers all over the state to see what the job is like in the field in 2020, and not assume what it's like from the tv or behind a desk. The mutual consensus from officers in my age bracket (mid-20s) is that this calling will no longer be worth pursuing. Our families are scared for us, we have no backing by the politicians, and there is a loud group of uniformed people pushing a false narrative. I refuse to start a family of my own while being a police officer at a time like this. Consider all things before passing a bill like this. De-policing of neighbors will be the first step in police pulling back and eventually, smart officers will find other jobs. Connecticut will never be the same.

Ofc. Pacileo
Glastonbury Police Department

Sent from my iPhone