

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing this to express my concern with elimination of qualified immunity for the police officers and their families.

2020 has created an environment where the fear of few outspoken residents is causing our legislature to make sudden changes to our policies.

Please DO NOT put the honest, hard working police officers' lives in danger! Their lives, and the lives of their families!

I am totally against bad police officers, and demand that they must be appropriately punished for the wrong they have done.

However, I am equally against placing ALL police officers in danger of what comes with false accusations.

I am a teacher, and have witnessed wrongly accused teachers treated as criminals, while their offenders were never punished.

I see good teachers who are leaving the profession. I also see others, who are afraid to speak up and allow bad things to happen in their classrooms, because they are petrified of being wrongly accused.

I am afraid that the police officers might do the same.

Many excellent officers might consider leaving the force.

Many others, might not do as good of a job as they should, for the fear of false accusations.

Why should they, if, they and their families will lose protection against civil lawsuits from members of society?

Somehow it is a norm in our society, that anyone, right or wrong, can accuse and sue anyone else. Many innocent people are advised by attorneys to settle rather than fight, even though the accusations are false. Many accusers know that, and work the system to their financial benefit.

When the public will learn that they can easily accuse and sue the police officers and their families - what will happen???

I beg you to please think this through with a sincere, open heart.

Please do not let the "noise" distract you.

We need good police force working and protecting our families, our homes, our lives.

They have enormous stress placed on their shoulders every moment of every day.

Please DO NOT remove the qualified immunity and the protection it offers to our police officers and their families.

Thank You,

Bozena Guminiak

Suffield, CT