BRANDON BRUSH
SOUTHINGTON, CT 06489

Dear Connecticut Legislators,

My name is Brandon Brush, and I am a resident of Southington, CT. I am writing in support of "An Act Concerning Police Accountability." I am particularly writing to express my support in the demilitarization of our state and local police, the prohibition of police searches without probable cause, the abolition of stop-and-frisk in CT, a law requiring badge numbers and names to be visible on all law enforcement officers, a law forbidding officers to ask for immigration documents during traffic stops, and a mandate that requires officers to intervene when witnessing excessive or illegal use-of-force being used by other officers. In addition to these things, we MUST end qualified immunity for officers who violate people's civil rights. This is one of the most important aspects for increasing police accountability in our state.

While I am in support of all the things mentioned above, I would like to also point out some issues I have with this bill. I do not think we should be increasing funding for any police departments in CT. Some training reform ideas are expensive and have not been statistically proven to fix the issues at hand. That money would be better spent being put into the communities police are supposed to protect. I also agree we should replace police with social workers when responding to certain emergency/mental health calls. HOWEVER, these social workers should not be under the control of police departments. We need more accessible and affordable physical and mental healthcare, more funding for education, and more community voices involved in the discussion for community protection.

In the hearing today, some testimonials have sought to weaponize suburban fears to fight the passing of any accountability measures. These testimonies do not speak for everyone in the suburbs and they certainly do not speak for me. Police accountability is important in all communities and parts of this bill are long overdue.

Thank you,
Brandon Brush