

My name is Brandy Liseo and I am a current certified police officer in Middletown, Connecticut. I have been a police officer for 16 years. On May 25, 2020, George Floyd was murdered by a police officer in Minneapolis, Minnesota. I don't think there are many people, police officers included, who would debate the validity of that statement. I don't know one police officer who wasn't horrified when they watched that video. There have been several incidents where police officers would disagree with the public's perception of police brutality because police are trained to use certain levels of force for certain reasons. This was not one of those times and police officers were willing to come to the table, listen, and take action to assist engaging the community in a more thoughtful way. However, it instead became an opportunity to attack the police in such a harmful manner that many officers simply walked away from the job and many that stayed felt disengaged from the community in a way they never had before. This horrible tragedy that could have brought us together as police and the community instead drove a wedge deeper than it has ever been. There are hundreds of thousands of police officers around this nation and millions of interactions every day. The large majority of these interactions are able to be brought to a closure in a peaceful manner, but sometimes we must take action that is much more forceful for a variety of reasons. Officers do not wish to be involved in those types of incidents. Officers come to work praying for a quiet, peaceful shift. We do not seek out trouble. We stop vehicles when we have to due to someone's behavior. We respond to issues when we are called in to help. We do not pick the calls for service, but rather are sent to them because someone is calling for help. These incidents are extremely fluid situations and things happen so fast that it is difficult for the average person to understand how fast a situation can turn very bad. We are asked to make life changing decisions in mere seconds. It is not an easy job and it can be very dangerous. With all that being said, the vast majority of interactions with the vast majority of officers are handled professionally and without further incident. There are plenty of improvements that can be made in policing, but these decisions should be made with the input of the people actually doing the job. To allow individuals with no law enforcement background to determine these new laws based solely on feelings and public perception is dangerous for both officers and the community. Additionally, it is not a very smart way to enact change. The safety of both officers and the community should be considered to develop the very best way to move forward in this trying time. By rushing this bill forward without a more thought out process we will only punish future generations. For example, if you take all of our military type equipment and we have a school shooting, how do we respond? We won't have the armored vehicles that allow us to move in closer to the building nor the rifles to help stop the bad guy who does have a rifle. If you don't allow consent searches of vehicles, how do we catch the bad guy with the gun he isn't supposed to have? If you take the tools we use to keep our communities safe, you leave everyone helpless. How many lives will be lost because the legislation wanted to push through a "feel good" bill with absolutely no thought to the harm they would be doing? You want police to wear cameras, no big deal. In fact, many of us having been begging for them so people could see we are willing to be transparent, but they have not been made affordable to cities and towns. You want us to file paperwork for each use of force, that's fine too. You want to assign special individuals to investigate deadly force incidents, absolutely no problem. Police Officers are not asking the legislature to not take any action, but we are asking them to seriously

consider what action they are taking. Making bad decisions now could result in a severe officer shortage and will definitely make the Connecticut communities less safe in the long run. Do not pass this bill as is. Please come back to the table and include the law enforcement community this time around. We are not just police officers. We are also human beings who are members of this community too and we want to move forward in the best way possible for ALL people.