

Re: Draft LCO #3471

An Act Concerning Police Accountability.

I was sent a draft of the bill with the OLR info and informed of my ability to register to testify on this bill at 9:15 in the morning of July 16th, 2020 by Senator Witkos. Written testimony or registration to speak virtually needed to be in by 6:00 same day for the next day hearing.

I understand the urgent need for police reform but for those of us citizens who take a little time to contact interested friends, process legalese and compose a coherent response, this is simply not enough time to participate intelligently or meaningfully. Please give us more advanced notice.

Having said that, I hope the bill includes the following:

1. Licensing of Police. Please do it. Hairdressers and physical therapists need to earn and keep a CT state license. The state is allowed to update requirements for licensure over the years in response to awareness of needs or changes. This would be great for police, too.

2. Prohibition of choke holds like the one used on that poor man killed by that unlicensed rogue policeman. I have heard that is one maneuver not allowed in martial arts because of it's known to be too dangerous.

3. A. means of effectively and quickly evaluating police on municipal and state forces, who commit too many mistakes involving physical mishandling of us, your constituents.

4. Rewarding use of de-escalation strategies and community support to those police who use them frequently or exceptionally well. Make them the role models up and coming police want to emulate.

5. I would really think about the idea of reduced funding to many police forces. I lived in West Hartford and the head of social service there for years, retired, was a neighbor of mine. They maintained that if much of the funding going to the the police force went to social services instead, W. H. wouldn't need the highest ratio of police per capita in the state. The police dept somehow held the town hostage to their demands for funds. Not sure how that works behind the scenes, but, if so, just wrong. People around the country are figuring out this. type of thing goes on often. Please have your commission look at this phenomenon in regards to. funding.

Thanks for considering these ideas,

Sincerely,

Cheryl Harrington Barkhamsted, CT