

Dear Connecticut Legislators,

My name is Christian Shaboo and I live in New Haven. I have been a resident of Connecticut for 15 years. I am writing to express my support for LCO# 3471 “An Act Concerning Police Accountability.” I have identified several points where the bill should be strengthened, however I also want to make a broader appeal to you. **Connecticut, and our leaders (you), have an opportunity to demonstrate not just to our communities, but to the entire nation, the kind of bold and humane leadership that we deserve, and that is possible,** for all people to thrive and to be free in our towns and cities. I ask that you meet this moment so that my city, and our state, moves beyond the comforts and status quo of the past, and does what is necessary for our communities to thrive and bring about true, compassionate, equitable justice in the 21st century.

I am writing to support the following sections with several amendments to strengthen this bill:

- Ending qualified immunity for officers who violate people’s civil rights
- Banning stop-and-frisk in Connecticut
- Demilitarizing of Connecticut police departments, including the disposal of all military equipment currently held by police departments
- Requiring that police officers to prominently display their badge
- Granting power that allows municipalities to establish Civilian Review Boards that MUST have Subpoena powers.
- Outlawing police searches without probable cause, even if the person consents to the search
- Outlawing police offers from asking for any documents (such as green cards, and other immigration documents) other than a driver's license during traffic stops (note: as written, the bill currently says police can ask for other forms of ID if someone does not provide a license. This is an unsafe measure for the undocumented community).
- Mandating a duty to intervene if a police officer witnesses another officer using excessive or illegal use-of-force
- Stronger Use of Force Standard. The bill should require that any use of deadly force is ‘necessary’ rather than the current standard of ‘objectively reasonable.’ More importantly, police using force to kill should never be acceptable

I also want to highlight sections of the bill I disagree with, including:

- Increasing funding for police departments, whether municipal or state. I support the immediate defunding and divestment from police departments and reallocation of these resources for social services
- The current bill calls for a study to be conducted by departments on adding Social Workers. Social workers should be used for certain emergency/mental health calls but they should not work under police departments
- The overrepresentation of police officers and politicians on the Police Officer Standards and Training Council. They make up 12/20 of the Council’s membership. This council should be dominated by civilians not politicians or police officers.

Thank you for your time.

Christian Shaboo
Co-Founder, Men Up
themenup.com