

Dear Senator Fasano,

Thank you for the opportunity to voice my opinion on this matter. I am very concerned about the increasing lawlessness in our country, and the leaders of the cities and states that turn a blind eye to the violence against citizens as well as police.

Without our police, we are sitting ducks and targets of those who wish to do harm. Not every citizen possesses firearms to protect themselves, but that will soon change. You can see the guns are flying off the shelves at gun shops. There is so much emphasis on racism, which is a hate crime. What about hate crimes against the police? Surely the police officer who was beaten with a stick in Brooklyn, requiring many sutures to close a wound, and resulting in a broken orbital bone, was not known to the person who attacked him. That is a hate crime, and makes the person who committed it no better than the officer who killed George Floyd. Targeting the police in general for crimes committed by a few individuals is the same as labeling any group, thieves and murderers for the crimes committed by a few. There is a movement to destroy our police force or at least render it useless, which is slowly becoming a reality. With all this hatred against the police, wearing their names on their badges makes the officers and their families targets of hate crimes against the police.

Yes, weed out the bad apples, fire the police who have been shown to consistently use excessive force. It may not have been done maliciously, but instead out of fear of being harmed, but either way, those people should not be in police work.

Police work is not like most other jobs when you know what to expect when you go on patrol. Given the recent protests and hatred against the police, I don't blame the officers for fearing for their lives. They want to go home to their families too. So maybe they are hyper-aware of potential dangerous situations. There can only be so much extra training for the police: anti bigotry training, crowd control, no-chokeholds, etc, but every single situation they encounter is unique. You cannot possibly be prepared for every situation, and be expected to make life and death decisions in a split second. On the one hand the decision may result in the death of a perpetrator, on the other hand, the decision may result in the death of the police officer.

Yes, the police should be accountable, but the CITIZENS should also be accountable. Where is respect for the police? Citizens are allowed to pour buckets of water on them, throw bricks, hit them with sticks? I feel confident in saying no person has ever come to harm from obeying the police. Isn't it a felony to assault the police? Allowing citizens to disrespect the police without consequence only emboldens them to escalate their disrespect until it becomes violence. they will see how far they can go. Citizens have to be accountable as well.

Making the officers responsible for lawsuits brought against them might be a deterrent to new applicants. How much money would it cost for liability insurance? And would that insurance cover a frivolous lawsuit? I'm sure everyone knows bogus charges are brought against the police on a regular basis because the thugs who initiate them, hate the police. To avoid court costs, settlements are made on a regular basis as well. An easy way to make money for those who know how to milk the system. This new bill would encourage that. I am disgusted at the mayors that don't look out for their police or their citizens. A mayor that sides with the lawless should not be in office. They think they can hire private security firms to protect their families, while they allow free reign to thugs that do violence on their citizens, robbing, looting, shooting, etc. You can't blame the police for everything. They are the thin blue line that protects us. The great majority of them put up with a lot of crap and danger in order to protect and serve the community. Now they all have targets on their backs, and hands that are tied by politics. Senator Fasano, you are a reasonable person, and we're sorry to hear of your upcoming retirement. Please stand up for our police.

Sincerely,

Christiane Schmohl

Danbury, CT