

I am Colleen Rykowski from Naugatuck, Ct and I am writing to express my opposition to Bill 3471.

I am not a police officer but a police officer's wife, the father of my children - a family man - the brother you wish you had, a son mothers dream about. He is a friend that puts others before himself, always and the most outstanding officer whom functions with the utmost integrity and highest quality police work known to man – the police officer you want to come when YOU make that call for help.

I am, however, a teacher. A teacher in an urban district and when I speak of the above officer, I watch as my students cringe and say things like 'oh, I can't talk to you now' or 'police officers are bad.'

Where do they learn this? When did they learn this?

If not their parents – it's from you, the legislation, and the strongest pull on the media – the people that persuade others albeit good or bad.

How disgusting. I can promise you, that you grew up viewing officers and police work entirely different and would not hesitate to call 911 for your safety or the safety of a loved one.

I ask you to never call on my husband again, as we are not in a position to lose our house that we raise our family in at the cost of the possibilities you are putting before us in this bill. I hope your personal defense tactics are enough to save you and your loved ones.

Presently, the numbers of violent crime is on the rise. Never mind, the crimes that are not viewed as a 'violent' crime, until your 6 year old daughter (such as that of the little girl in WTBY this month) gets killed by a drunk driver that could have been prevented had a police officer observed and been able to make a proactive motor vehicle stop. But, no police officer is going to proactively act if their livelihood is on the line. That'll be a reoccurring incident, as officers will begin to fear the safety of their own 6 year olds' lives and worry less about that of you and yours.

How dare you to under mind the professionalism of my husband and his police work. Yes, I am making this personal because it is...

Please, by all means – I ask each and every one of you to walk a day in the life of...

Show up to someone's worst day ever...every single call you respond to...

Perform CPR to save a life.

Deescalate a volatile domestic dispute.

Help deliver a baby.

Knock on someone's door to tell them a loved one died.

Talk someone off the ledge when they've had enough.

Hold a tourniquet on a shot victim's bloody appendage.

Ask the RIGHT questions of the witnesses of a murder to bring forth justice.

Determine who is at fault in a motor vehicle accident.

Run after said suspect when they flee the scene on foot while wearing all your gear.

Comfort a family who had just been victims of a home invasion.

Apprehend a robber (by saying please & thank you of course...) as they come running out of the local grocery store after holding the cashier at gun point.

Decide if the vehicle you just saw make an unordinary move was a mom tossing a tissue to her daughter in the back... or a dad who has had a few too many after work. Oh....wait....we don't want to make the wrong decisions here while being proactive....because THAT just may save a life.

And remember... do any or all of the above while you miss your daughter's first Christmas, your mom's birthday, your son's graduation while on hour 15 of a 16 hour shift or during a snow storm or when you have been held over for the fourth night in a row or perhaps as you come up on the 46th hour of a murder investigation...

You truly have no idea as legislators... but continue to push that pen...

And might I add, as I sat down to write this, at 1:00pm on a sunny afternoon, a 'law abiding' citizen shot another citizen as told to me by my husband that you clearly don't think much of...

Thank you for your time.

