

Hello,

I write to you, as a 25+ year police veteran, in opposition to much of what is being proposed in Connecticut's police reform bill. A lot of what is proposed, will not only negatively impact police officers, but also the citizenry that we serve. Some of the proposed changes would be immediately felt, while others would take time to prove that they were a mistake. The laws, court decisions, policies, procedures, etc. that are currently in place are adequate, and only need to be utilized as they were intended. How many more regulations do we need? At a certain point, things become redundant.

Many of the proposed changes will result in a large number of police officers who leave the field all together, while others will bury their heads in the sand and do little to nothing. There will be a fear of being disciplined, fired, jailed, or sued. A much more serious ramification would be the potentially deadly hesitation and indecision of officers who fear the repercussions of using force where appropriate to protect themselves, or someone else. Those are examples of fairly immediate impacts. A longer-term consequence will be the inability of law enforcement agencies to attract and retain quality (if any) employees. I ask, who would want to be a law enforcement officer for the relatively low pay (considering the safety risks and liability insurance costs), the lack of support by political and administrative leaders, lack of proper training and resources (caused by the push for defunding), etc? All of the aforementioned will surely translate into more safety risks for the police and the public, higher crime rates and a diminished quality of life for all.

A majority of those seeking these reforms, are not and never have been, employed as a law enforcement officer. Someone who works the streets on a daily basis and who knows what the job entails. Law enforcement is already a difficult job and officers need the protections they have, in order to do their jobs safely and effectively. I urge you to consider the short-term and long-term byproducts that certain changes will have and whether or not change in certain areas is even necessary.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration.

Craig Duquette  
Bristol