

Hello,

As a police officer of almost ten years, I have many questions and concerns regarding this Police Reform Bill. The first and most important part has to do with the push to get rid of Qualified Immunity. I have been sued several times and know how the process works. In each scenario, I was told I was in the right, but a "business decision" was made to pay the party out of court. They stated this is because it would cost more money to defend the officer in court.

Being sued is a stressful time for a police officer. Even if the officer acted and performed his/her duty with the upmost respect and good faith, they still could be sued and potentially have to pay large sums of money to settle the case. People in the streets have come to know that a lawsuit against an officer might lead to a easy pay day. The suit is accepted in court prior to the officer defending himself/herself.

If qualified immunity is gone, the lawsuits will continue and officers will have no protection. Officers will have to have personal liability insurance. This insurance is not cheap and will become a financial burden. Officers will be presented with the dilemma of either protecting the public or protecting their livelihood/family. I know most officers who I have talked to stated they will leave this job if qualified immunity is taken away. This includes myself.

I would recommend that nobody take this occupation if qualified immunity is taken away. The risk would go way beyond the reward. An officer do everything correct and still end up in court on a regular basis, trying to save their job and livelihood.

Thank you and please consider that the actions of one or a few should not reflect on the majority.

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