

DONNA LORD
164 Christian Hill Rd
Higganum, CT 06441

July 16, 2020

RE: OPPOSE LCO #3471 An Act Concerning Police Accountability (AACPA)

My name is Donna Lord and I live in Haddam, Connecticut and I oppose OPPOSE LCO #3471 An Act Concerning Police Accountability (AACPA).

Though there are many reasons why I oppose this legislation, some key points are:

1. It discriminates against women who are already a minority in law enforcement. In particular, it makes it even more difficult for a woman to be hired to law enforcement, if she happens to be white.
2. The Police Officer Standards and Training Council should also include members of the public that are not "justice-impacted" and also members that do not have a "mental disability".
3. The members that the Governor can select to the Council should be limited as to not impose political bias (regardless of party). Municipalities should vote on which officials and officers they would like to represent them in the Council. The pool of candidates for each slot on the Council will be compiled and a single candidate chosen by blind selection.
4. "Controlled Equipment" – this section is short sighted. Military surplus equipment provides municipalities with an affordable means to acquire necessary gear and equipment. Small arms and night vision are two examples that should not require additional justification. Controlled equipment purchases should be left to the municipality to determine its specific needs.

This act is rife with discrimination and overreach. Though there may be elements that are well intentioned, it should not be rushed through simply to appease our current social and political climate. This act will ultimately serve to make it more difficult to attract and hire quality law enforcement personnel, leaving our communities underserved, unprotected, and less safe.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Donna Lord". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial 'D'.