

1 Autumn Drive  
South Windsor, CT 06074  
July 16, 2020

To: Judiciary Committee Public Hearing

Re: An Act Concerning Police Accountability

To whom it may concern:

As a white woman who has watched the tragic experiences of police involvement with minority groups over many years, I support all of the proposed changes in the Draft Bill: An Act Concerning Police Accountability.

This proposed bill provides sensible solutions to the areas of conflict that arise due to ongoing systemic racism. If passed, it will improve the outcomes of interactions between police and the public to the betterment of all.

There may be other suggestions for this bill that will improve its effectiveness but below are some areas that I support:

- certification and recertification of both municipal and State Police, including racial bias training;
- statewide standards for and training in crowd management;
- limiting of the use of deadly physical force and chokeholds;
- officers' duty to intervene to stop use of excessive force; prohibitions on pedestrian citation quotas and on consent searches of motor vehicles and individuals who were stopped for motor vehicle violations;
- addition of social work staff to tackle a wide range of social issues; and,
- establishment of an office of Inspector general.

The goal is to transform the municipal and State Police to make them more effective in working with all groups of people. An adversarial relationship is not conducive to the health of any community.

An Act Concerning Police Accountability is an important beginning of long-needed changes that are needed to address systemic racism. It is imperative that a strong police accountability bill be approved by the Judiciary Committee and the Legislature in the special session.

Thank you for considering my support of An Act Concerning Police Accountability.

Regards,

Elizabeth Kopper