

Dear Members of the CT Judiciary Committee,

My name is Dr. Emily McCave and I live & vote in Hamden, CT. I am writing in support of LCO #3471: An Act Concerning Police Accountability (AACPA). This is a critical piece of legislation that is needed to protect our communities and ensure that everyone, regardless of race, feels safe.

I support almost all sections this of this bill and in particular support:

- Requiring all police officers to be POST certified
- Requiring all police officers have routine mental health assessments
- Requiring implicit bias training for all police officers
- Prohibiting collective bargaining agreements entered into by the state from blocking the disclosure of certain files
- Expanding the scope of the Police Transparency and Accountability Taskforce
- Requiring officers to display their badge
- Allowing towns/cities to form Civilian Review Boards w/subpoena power
- Expanding requirement for use of body cameras to all municipal police officers and use of dashboard cameras in vehicles
- Prohibiting consent searches of motor vehicles stopped solely for motor vehicle violations and individuals
- Raising the penalties for false reporting crimes committed with the specific intent to falsely report due to characteristics of the reported person or group and misusing the 911 system
- Limiting use of deadly physical force
- Mandating duty to intervene if officer witnesses excessive force
- Ending qualified immunity for officers who violate civil rights
- Prohibiting use of military equipment by law enforcement agencies

Aspects I do not support:

- Allowing chokeholds under specific circumstances
- Embedding social workers in police departments – as a social worker, I am strongly opposed to this section as currently written. Community members are less likely to trust social workers who are working alongside police officers due to law enforcement's historical misuse of power that was sanctioned by the state. Rather, I strongly support adding new language creating separate municipal units that hire social workers to respond to calls that traditionally are handled by the police – such as issues related to substance use, homelessness, mental health crises.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Emily McCave, PhD, MSW, LMSW

57 Manor Street

Hamden, CT 06517