

Representative,

My name is Kyle Francisco Jimenez, and I live at 49 Charter Oak Drive with wife. In 2018 I bought my house which I currently live and fell in love with the community. Oxford has many scenic parks and small family business which give it a hometown sensation. All of this is protected by the great public safety provided by the Oxford Police Department and Connecticut State Police (Troop A). They do a phenomenal job in keeping the residents of Oxford safe.

Along with being a son and a husband, I am Trumbull Police Police Officer. I'm currently assigned to the Dispatch Communications Center/Patrol/D.A.R.E program. I truly enjoy and love my job. I love helping people in all kinds of situations, whether it be giving guidance to children to children in school while working as a D.A.R.E. Instructor to helping a mother who was assaulted by her husband. Up until yesterday, this job was everything I signed up for.

I am also a member of our Police Union (local 1745). Yesterday, I read the draft of the police accountability reform bill. For the first time in my police career, I had a conversation with my wife about leaving the job to pursue another career. If passed, this bill will have arguably the most restrictive language, in the country, against police officers. The bill will ultimately prevent good officers, the 99.99% of us, from doing our jobs and doing it well. It will have the opposite effect of its good intentions. In my opinion and based on what I know, if this bill passes, Connecticut will experience the same crime wave seen happening across major cities in the country.

There is no police officer in this state that will argue that what happened in Minneapolis was right. What that officer did was wrong and justice was served. However, to paint every police officer with the same brush is not right, and that is what this bill is doing. There is simply no data, facts or statistics that show police officers use excessive force, are racist, or are not held accountable. The narrative that we're out there hurting, injuring, or killing people at astronomical rates is simply not true. To hear the media, day in and day out, label cops as as racists, is the most disturbing thing I've ever seen. This onslaught of law enforcement has to stop.

According to the Bureau of Justice Statistics, in 2015, there was approximately 53 million police interactions in the United States. According to the Washington Post's database on police deadly use of force incidents, approximately 1,000 were killed by law enforcement. That's .00188%. In 2019, of the approximately 1,000 killed by law enforcement, over 96% had a weapon. Every police related death is tragic, but to say it's a systemic problem is simply not true.

In 2019, CT State Police arrested 9,829 individuals. Of the 9,829 arrests, less than 1% resulted in a use of force incident (94 incidents). "About two-thirds or 66 percent of the 94 use-of-force incidents in 2019 involved alcohol, the report said. In addition, 25 of the incidents required the person to be sent to the hospital for a mental health evaluation." "The use of deadly force was down from five incidents in 2017, to three in 2018 and two in 2019."

In 2019, Trumbull had approximately 20,000 calls for service, and approximately 48 use of force incidents - this includes hands, pepper spray, taser, and even drawing a weapon out of holster. That accounts for .25% of our entire call volume.

We acknowledge and welcome reasonable changes to law enforcement. We acknowledge that we are human and make mistakes. We acknowledge that there are bad apples in our profession. We need more

training, the best qualified candidates, and the rights tools to do the job - not radical reform bills. Cops will simply not be able to do their jobs, even more so than now.

The areas of the bill most concerning to cops across this state are:

- qualified immunity
- the change of the use of force standard -consent searches to motor vehicles -language allowing POST to suspend officers for officers that "undermine public confidence"
- mandating mental health and drug tests
- studying taking away road jobs

#### Qualified Immunity:

Unfortunately, people do not understand qualified immunity. Most people have a notion that qualified immunity means police officers can do anything they want, and not be held accountable. It's the same qualified that politicians, teachers, town/state workers, firefighters, etc, all have. It's to protect against frivolous lawsuits. Qualified immunity is, and has been, well established law by the Supreme Court. If this bill gets passed, cops are going to be afraid to do their jobs. No cop is going to put himself in a situation that will cause him to lose his house, property or life savings.

#### Use of force:

Graham v Connor is the arguably the most important Supreme Court case when it comes to policing. It shapes how we train, respond to calls, and how we use force when necessary. The change of this standard would effectively end law enforcement as we know it in the state of Connecticut.

#### Consent changes:

It is a known fact throughout the law enforcement community that most arrests are made on simple traffic stops. This includes drugs (like fentanyl) and weapons (gun violence is plaguing our inner cities). Did you know that Timothy McVeigh was caught after the Oklahoma City bombing on a simple traffic stop? Not to mention that consent searches are already well established by the 4th amendment, and law has been set by the Supreme Court.

#### POST changes:

I believe police officers are already held to the highest standard. We have been told by other states that Connecticut produces some of the most well trained police in the country. After internal investigations, the bad apples are referred to POST anyway, and are ultimately fired/removed from law enforcement.

We as law enforcement officers are always open to a discussion about change and how to better serve the community. The 99.99% of law abiding citizens will be affected most by this bill. I'm ultimately asking you not to support this bill, but instead to discuss with your colleagues about making reasonable changes. Changes need to be based on facts and statistics, not emotion. This bill may not defund the police, but it will dismantle the police. As a son, husband, law enforcement officer, and Oxford resident, I do not support this bill.

Thank you,  
Respectfully,  
Francisco Jimenez

Sent from my iPhone