Dear Connecticut Legislators,

My name is Hannah Mayer Baydoun and I live in New Haven, CT. I am writing to express my support for LCO# 3471 "An Act Concerning Police Accountability." Specifically, I am writing to support the following and ask that amendments be made to further strengthen this bill:

☐ Granting power that allows municipalities to establish Civilian Review Boards with Subpoena powers. (Note: as written, the bill currently says CRB's 'may' have subpoena power, not 'must'. That language is key).

☐ Outlawing police searches without probable cause, even if the person consents to the search

☐ Outlawing police offers from asking for any documents (such as green cards, and other immigration documents) other than a driver's license during traffic stops (note: as written, the bill currently says police can ask for other forms of ID if someone does not provide a license. This is an unsafe measure for the undocumented community).

☐ Mandating a duty to intervene if a police officer witnesses another officer using excessive or illegal use-of-force

☐ Ending qualified immunity for officers who violate people's civil rights

☐ Banning stop-and-frisk in Connecticut

☐ Demilitarizing of Connecticut police departments, including the disposal of all military equipment currently held by police departments
Requiring that police officers to prominently display their badge

☐ Stronger Use of Force Standard. The bill should require that any use of deadly force is 'necessary' rather than the current standard of 'objectively reasonable.' This standard should also include an officers' entire engagement with a person(s) rather than just the moment when severe or deadly force was used. (Note: this specific provision is soul wrenching because police are NEVER justified in killing our people. The idea that police use force to make themselves more safe is not true. We have seen police use life-preserving skills when responding to white male mass shooters like Dylann Roof. In that case, police never found it "necessary" to "use force," even though Dylann Roof had murdered several people within a church. Police protected him without conditions. But when police interact with people of color, particularly Black and Brown youth like Jayson Negron, Mubarak Soulemane, Zoe Dowdell, Corbin Cooper, Jarelle Gibbs, Vincent Folkwes (Kuda), Malik Jones, Anthony Vega (Chulo), and so many others in this state who have been murdered at the hands of police, the "use of force" becomes "necessary." Police in this state do not prioritize preventing harm when they come into contact with people of color. We know this because we have seen police escalate violence and cause harm over and over again: in over 30 police killings within the last three years, in their interactions with protestors, and in everyday abuses against people of color. The conditions that determine when police will "use force" and when police practice "de-escalation" tactics are directly connected to a person's race, gender, housing status, mental health, and disabilities. Nonetheless, we must push legislators to use and define words like 'necessary force' and 'de-escalation').

I also want to highlight the components of the bill I disagree with, which include:

⬤ Increasing funding for police departments, whether municipal or state. We support the immediate defunding and divestment from police departments and reallocation of these resources for social services

⬤ Adding social workers to police departments. The current bill calls for a study be conducted by departments on this matter. Social workers should be used for certain emergency/mental health calls but they should not work under police departments.

⬤ The overrepresentation of police officers and politicians on the Police Officer Standards and Training Council. They make up 12/20 of the Council's membership. This council should be dominated by civilians not politicians or police officers.

Thank you for your time.

Best,

Hannah Mayer Baydoun

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