

Dear Members of the Judiciary Committee,

Hello, my name is Helen Redmond and I am a constituent from Ridgefield. I am writing to ask that you pass LCO #3471, An Act Concerning Police Accountability (AACPA).

While there are many important aspects of this bill, I am particularly supportive of several provisions, including the decision to ban law enforcement officers from using collective bargaining to hide officers' disciplinary records from the public. All of us are safer when law enforcement officers who commit ethical violations are held accountable. Yet Connecticut residents cannot fully hold officers accountable to the public if their disciplinary records are hidden. Allowing citizens to access police officers' personnel files ensures that municipal police departments are more transparent. Moreover, this measure may dissuade officers from committing future ethical violations.

Additionally, I support this bill's provision to prohibit officers from using governmental or qualified immunity as a defense for violating residents' rights under the state constitution. Qualified immunity cannot and should not be an excuse for law enforcement officers to violate people's constitutional rights. Ending qualified immunity in our state would protect our residents and encourage municipal police departments to support life-saving de-escalation measures.

While Connecticut has a reputation as a progressive state, it too suffers from police brutality and systematic racism. Our inaction is costing the lives and safety of Connecticut residents. This bill is an important and essential step towards police reform. Therefore, I ask that the Judiciary Committee pass LCO #3471, An Act Concerning Police Accountability (AACPA).

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Helen Redmond