

See below on what I sent my representatives.

Jessica Legan
Torrington, CT

From: Jessica
Sent: Thursday, July 16, 2020 10:19 PM
To: Michelle Cook <Michelle.Cook@cga.ct.gov>; kevin.witkos@cga.ct.gov <kevin.witkos@cga.ct.gov>
Subject: Bill Proposal Draft LCO #3471

Good Evening Rep Cook & Senator Witkos -
 I'm writing you as my Torrington representatives regarding the Bill proposal under review regarding Police Accountability, LCO #3471.

As a CT citizen and supporter of those that protect & serve our communities -- this bill is of great concern to their safety (and overall future of the profession, in my opinion). Especially SS 41 on pg 37 in regards to the bill "**eliminating the possibility of claiming qualified or government immunity as a defense to such suits**". In a world where many are now watching closely at all actions of police officers with a bias, it seems the message suddenly being sent to law enforcement is ... protect and serve us, but we have no intention of protecting you. I can only imagine what kinds of decisions officers have to make in a split second - choices that are life or death, meanwhile everyone else has hundred hours to make speculations afterwards on those decisions.

With elimination of qualified immunity, the stakes are exponentially higher in the course of them just doing what we hired them to do, keep us safe. I can't imagine any officer goes to work hoping that day they might have to use force or discharge their weapon. But if they have to, we as a state should see to it they aren't automatic targets for lawsuits - especially with the racial divide currently running rampant in our country.

Allowing for a change such as noted above will lead to massive departures from the force. Massive. These are the men & women that run into schools when there is an active shooter (gee, good thing CT hasn't had that happen...oh wait!) These are the men & women that get killed on the side of the roadway while trying to make the roads safer for the rest of us. These are the men & women that run into burning buildings, reach us first when we've been in a car accident, show up during violent domestic situations, search for the armed & dangerous suspects... they are our first responders, always putting others before themselves. We don't call our local politicians when we need help - we call 911, and they come without question. I wouldn't blame them if they stop showing up for us with all this red tape we are beginning to weigh them down with.

Our state should be an example in making this profession MORE safe and secure for our police officers, so they can continue to recruit qualified and dedicated members. We should be focused on continually improving their already best in the nation POST training and actively re-enforcing skills after they've left the academy with ongoing training. We should be looking for ways to improve law enforcement/community relations, starting at youth level. (Torrington's PAL program is a GREAT example that the rest of the state could follow.) A call to action is not unjustified, but this bill has

components that are the completely WRONG response.

We need to keep our town's safe, first and foremost by supporting our police officers! I sleep well at night, and I have TPD to thank for that.

Sincerely,
Jessica Legan
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