

Hello. I am a Seymour resident as well as a police officer in Monroe. I love my job. I love helping people, and making a difference in the community I serve. The Police Accountability Act that has been drafted will change the world of policing as we know it for officers and civilians alike. What it will do is stop the good cops, (the ones who willingly took a job with crappy pay, terrible hours, holidays worked, family events missed, and lives on the line everyday) from doing the job they wanted so badly to do. The good cops, who want to get the bad guys and who want to make a difference, won't want to take actions in situations where they aren't required to do so. I'm talking about traffic stops which lead to DUI/narcotics arrests. I'm talking about warrants not served, illegal firearms still in circulation at greater capacity. And that's just barely scratching the surface. We see what's happening already close to home. New Haven, Waterbury, Bridgeport. The crime rates have sky rocketed. Now look at New York. They're calling for NYPD to reinstate their Crime Unit. Why? Because criminals will always be criminals, and when left unchecked, you have murders, assaults, narcotics dealing, and overall chaos. Imagine when police officers are even more withdrawn if this bill is passed. This isn't about black or white, democrat or republican. It's about good vs evil, and it's about what's right and wrong. A decrease in police productivity means an increase in criminal activity. Police officers and civilians need to take a stand, and being "silent majority" isn't going to cut it. We can't be silent, YOU can't be silent.

As our elected officials you are our voice. I implore you to consider the ramifications we will see if certain parts of this bill are passed. This job is not doable without qualified immunity. And I know I'm in the majority when I say without it, I'm likely to give up my badge and choose a different career path.

I thank you for your time and hope you consider what I have tried to express to you.

Jessica Telesco