

Ladies and Gentlemen,

My name is John Krupinsky and I am the State President of the Connecticut Fraternal Order of Police. I represent local, state and federal law enforcement officers across the State of Connecticut. This bill is a bad bill for anyone in the state of Connecticut that wants anytype of law and order. We have been pretty lucky in this state and generally have a pretty good relationship between the police and the community. If this bill passes it will end policing as you know it. We will become the next NYC. I don't believe that you or your constituents want that. In the past few weeks we have seen a rise in violent crime in many cities across the state to include Danbury, Hartford and Waterbury. Shootings and gun violence are up. I will try to hit some of the worst highlights of this bill so as not to take up too much of your time but I could write a 100 page document.

1. Qualified Immunity: Under this bill it would be repealed. Cities are now responsible for lawsuits. They are responsible to pay plaintiffs who win a judgement against a police officer. If you pass this a plaintiff will never get paid again. First of all if he wins a 10 million dollar judgement, no police officer has the means to pay it so he would lose. If this passes police officers will simply transfer all their assets to children or other relatives again your constituent loses. Many officers have stated that they will just retire if this passes leaving you with inexperienced officers which will only make any problems worse. Other officers stated that they will take no chances in taking action that may get them sued meaning criminals will be allowed to do what they want. New York has already passed this type of bill and see how it's working out there. Cops can't be afraid to do their job to be effective.
2. The state has temporarily suspended our government 1033 surplus equipment program. This will be completely gone and we will have to give back all equipment that we have obtained through this program if this bill passes. Danbury would have to return 75 patrol rifles that we obtained to respond to school shootings. Newtown would have to return their armored vehicle if this passes god knows that town should have one. I hope all the legislators understand Chiefs will be going to mayors to replace this free equipment that will now have to be purchased through budgets.
3. Taking away consent searches. I have no idea why the state would want to suspend a consent search if a civilian says I am allowing you to search my car. This is how we take guns off the street. This will lead to more violent crime and shootings in our state.
4. Changes to use of force: What we currently have is working. Officers that have gone outside of the law were prosecuted. The section that states we have to use all of the non lethal items on our belt before we shoot someone is crazy since most shootings occur between 1.6 and 2.4 seconds. There is simply no time for that.
5. If you really want to make real positive changes in law enforcement it's about training. This bill does not address training at all. We currently have 40 hours of mandated training every 3 years as required by the state. Zero hours of that required 40 hours are dedicated to defensive tactics training. I have not had any defensive tactics training in 15 years. This is the area you're complaining about but it's not addressed. For officers to be competent they need a minimum of 24 hours every year but towns do not want to spend the money. Make that a law

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