

I must speak out against The Police Reform Bill #3471. This bill is detrimental to all citizens of Connecticut. I am not alone in believing that if this bill passes, there will be a mass exodus of good police officers in our state, whether through retirement or quitting the force. No I'm not exaggerating! This bill is labeled as a police reform bill, but it is far from that. We do need reform, accountability but we do not need to blame and render helpless the good and caring police officers for the bad conduct of a few. It is an ANTI-POLICE bill. I beg you for the safety of all of us and our families and our fellow residents to Vote NO on this bill. We will not tolerate legislation like this becoming law. We in CT know better than anyone how much we need the police after horrible incidents like the Sandy Hook School tragedy. We do not want our Police to hesitate should they have to respond to another active shooter, another domestic violence incident or even another home invasion. Last year the CT State Police used force only 0.02% in all interactions with the public. Taking away qualified immunity for police will only hurt the people of CT as our police will hesitate and chose to look the other way rather than put everything at risk and be frivolously sued. Qualified immunity DOES NOT protect police officers who have been convicted of a crime when sued regarding that crime So why do we need to take it away from our most professional, qualified and decent police officers? We all need to ask ourselves; do we want to be like our neighboring state, New York, which has become a place of violence, where 1-year old children are being shot sitting in a strollers or do we want to maintain our safety. We cannot allow us to be part of this insane experiment. Weed out the bad, but for heavens sake, keep protecting the good officers we have. If you can't put yourself in their shoes when they are apprehending someone fleeing a crime scene or holding a knife or gun which could be used against them, then I again implore you to VOTE NO on the police reform bill!

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