

Senator Winfield, Representative Stafstrom, Ranking Members Kissel and Rebimbas, and distinguished members of the Judiciary Committee:

I am writing to express my support for legislation that brings accountability to the police. However, in its current form, I do not believe this bill does all it could do to achieve that goal.

In Sections 1-4 and Section 15, the language gives police the ability to police themselves in the certification and decertification process. I believe an independent body should be created to police this process.

In Section 18, the language states that police departments will evaluate the need for social workers to replace them for some work - this is an obvious conflict of interest, and I believe an independent body should also be created to assess this need.

Many of the policies included in this bill are great first steps toward truly holding police accountable, but we should not put more money into the police to allow this to happen. We should divest from our police departments and reinvest in our communities.

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