

Public Testimony for Bill Number 3741

Support for An Act Concerning Police Accountability

Dear Senator Winfield, Co-Chair Stafstrom, Vice Chair Kissel, Vice Chair Blumenthal, Ranking Member Kissel, Ranking Member Remimbass, Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee,

I am writing to express my support of LCO3471. The movement for racial justice and equity is an important one that deserves ongoing conversation, legislation, and action.

In particular I support:

Sections 5 & 6 : Crowd Management Policy

Sections 8 & 9 Collective Bargaining and Public Records Disclosure

Section 12: Police Transparency and Accountability Force

Section 14: Police Badge and Name Identification Requirements

Section 18: Evaluation of Social Workers Responding to Certain Police Calls

Sections 24 & 27: Penalties for False Reporting

Sections 38 & 39: Prohibitions on Pedestrian Citation Quotas

Sections 40: Prohibition on Police Using Military Equipment

21 & 22 Prohibition on Consent Searches

I advise revisions or clarifications on the following:

Sections 3 & 15-16: Mental Health Assessments for Police Officers, that upon completion of such mental health assessment, treatment options are provided to the police officers without stigma, if such services are recommended based on the assessment.

Sections 17: Civilian Review Boards: I request legislators consider the role powerful police unions play in misconduct amongst officers, and specify statewide how Civilian Review Boards will have the power to make real change.

I do not support any additional funding for police departments. The ultimate goal in the movement for black lives is to invest in communities, not in policing those communities.

I urge legislators to take into consideration the act of policing, and the way police officers are carrying out control of community members. Changing certain restrictions without addressing the historical background of policing, and the inherently violent act of policing will not create the changes we need to see. Recruiting more police officers of color will not solve the problem if they are bullied into submission, and punished for whistle blowing. It is clear that accountability is necessary, and clear that legislation is needed to protect the rights and safety of Black, brown, and Indigenous people, as well as the rights and safety of protestors.

Thank you for your work and for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,

Kelly Farina

Resident of Suffield, CT