

I am writing to you today to voice my concerns over the Police Reform Bill LCO #3471. My husband and I are both law enforcement officers and are fearful of losing the qualified immunity when we are performing our duties. We have both worked for over twenty years each in law enforcement and truly believe that this bill is a knee jerk reaction to brutality issues that have been happening in other areas of the country. There have been a few incidents in our state, but nothing that would call for this type of quick action to take place. Reform is necessary in all aspects of our society at different times, but we need to look at the unintended consequences of our actions when looking at this bill. The first problem that we already face is a lack of qualified candidates that we face during the hiring process. We also lose many officers during the initial two-year probationary period, either to other professions or because they are just not a good fit for the job. We already recruit and hire minority officers in the City of Waterbury where I am employed. Many officers that I work with are talking about leaving this profession or retiring if we lose qualified immunity because we have all worked too hard for our families to take a chance losing it all to frivolous lawsuits. We currently lack funding for an increase in training; which absolutely none of us are opposed to at any time.

The increase of crime since the peaceful protests and riots began is just the beginning of a lawless society if the police are not fully trained, equipped, and staffed.

Please consider all of our concerns and its unintended consequences when reviewing this bill.

*Kim Binette* 