

Kristianna Smith
New Britain, CT

Dear Connecticut Legislators,

My name is Kristianna Smith and I am a Connecticut resident. I am writing, again, to share my support for "An Act Concerning Police Accountability."

Specifically Section 41 of the bill should not be altered. It is inexcusable to allow a provision which makes police accountability impossible. It is the responsibility of the legislature to create a system where police are *encouraged* to protect civilian rights, not one another or themselves. **The flaw in modeling our Police Departments after armed forces is that there is no circumstance in which an officer can hold both the civil right of "innocent before proven guilty" and "this population is the enemy." This is a paradox that is leaving Black and Brown folks mamed and dead.** This is unacceptable and must be addressed immediately. Section 41 of this bill is one step.

I also want to highlight the components of the bill I disagree with, which include:

- Increasing funding for police departments, whether municipal or state.
- Possibly adding social workers to police departments. Social workers should be used for certain emergency/mental health calls but they should not work under police departments
- The overrepresentation of police officers and politicians on the Police Officer Standards and Training Council. They make up 12/20 of the Council's membership. This council should be dominated by civilians not politicians or police officers.

Thank you for your time.

Best,

Kristianna Smith

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If you want to go quickly, go alone. If you want to go far, go together. -African Proverb

Kristianna J. Smith

(pronouns: she/ her/ hers)

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