

Good Afternoon, I support the initiatives outline in this Bill. It appears to be an aggressive multi-faceted response to the current issues plaguing our society when interacting with the police. I want to stress that I know that being a police officer is an extremely demanding job, and that most are on the job for all the right reasons. However, I also feel like they are overburdened with expecting to be everything from law enforcers, to peace keepers, to marriage counselors, therapists, substance abuse counseling, social working etc.

It's too much! I do believe that their job needs to be streamlined to consider all the different interactions a police offer may be confronted in a day. There possibly could be officers trained specifically to being responsible for traffic infractions, ones that come unarmed to assess a volatile situation, and the heavily armed force that comes when the situation is critical and life risking.

I don't have all the answers as to how this would work, but I do know that the current system is broken and requires immediate and dramatic reform. Police offers cannot be expected to be all things to all people, especially when you talk about having to have a soft touch, compassionate approach diffusing an argument one minute, to having to be laser focused and prepared to use deadly force when necessary, all at the same time. It's just not fair or feasible.

I appreciate our legislators working hard to address this very important initiative and coming up with a bipartisan, balanced yet aggressive legislation to help change the world!

Sincerely,
Lauri Bates
622 Spruce Brook Road
Southbury, Ct 06488