

To our state legislators,

While Covid-19 infections in Connecticut are thankfully showing signs of plateauing, one thing we are not immune from is the infection brought by crime in our cities and towns. Right now, people are literally fleeing the one-time stellar New York City because leaders there have refused to stand in support of law enforcement. The results: shootings have skyrocketed, and NYPD officers are being blatantly attacked by gangbangers who recognize that city and state officials are on their side and not the police's. The cops have gotten the message: if they lift a hand to defend themselves, they risk immediate suspension; being mocked by the liberal media; being fired; and/or loss of their pensions for which they have worked for decades. It's shameful betrayal, and the criminals have taken full advantage. During the week of June 15-21, there were 53 shooting incidents in NYC, compared to 12 during the same week in 2019 - an increase of 342%. During that same week, there were 72 shooting victims in NYC, compared to 14 in 2019 - an increase of 414%. Not to forget the weekend of July 10, when there were 28 shootings in NYC, including those of a 1-year-old and a 15-year-old. Is this what you want for Connecticut? Do any of you recall the not-too-distant past when the neighborhoods of Bridgeport, Hartford and Stamford were in the fights of their lives to eliminate aggressive drug dealers and other criminal elements? I pray that this drastic upswing of crime in NYC does not infest our communities here in Connecticut. I am not by any means alone when I say I am vehemently against the "defund the police" movement in New York, which apparently seems to be the core of that city's problems. Yet some new legislation in Hartford will not only make it more difficult for police in our state to do their jobs, but will also add staggering new costs for the taxpayers to pay.

There is clearly a politically popular anti-law-enforcement movement trending in our country, a trend that, if not given the proper time and attention, can and will destroy our society as we know it. My fear is poorly-thought-out, overreactionary and spontaneous legislation like LCO 3471. I get that there are issues to be addressed about law enforcement; but those issues concern a minuscule percentage of bad-apple officers (which, by the way, are likely fewer in percentages than there are bad-apple politicians - but are we rushing to flush them out of the waters without proper protocol?). The hastiness of LCO No. 3471 in Hartford creates a mandate that suggests police in general are the prime problem, and with that comes consequences. How easy it is to forget that police risk their own lives every single day in order to keep us citizens safe. It takes a special breed to become a police officer; I certainly couldn't do it, so I have immeasurable respect for those who can and do in fact dedicate their adult lives to public service. Picture this scenario, if you will: you wake up in the middle of the night to an armed intruder. What do you do after you call 911 and are told that no one is available to assist you (which is what you are likely to be told if/when the police have all taken an early retirement due to this unfair, unjust and unethical treatment they received from the government)? Or are politicians exempt from being victimized? You don't have to worry about this nonsense, is that it? I'd probably panic and have a heart attack. But my obit would no doubt say that I died of a gunshot wound to the head in an armed robbery/rape attempt in my home. The perpetrator, if caught, would get a slap on the hand and walk, partly because of the now-

overflowing prisons due to the new crime-riddled, anarchistic trend. If there were still such a thing as prisons. Oh, and I would still be dead.

We need you, as our elected officials, to stand up for the citizens who entrusted you when they elected you into this office and REJECT THIS PROPOSAL, for the sake of our beautiful little state as well as our children's future - not necessarily in that order. We cannot permit what is happening in New York City to become the future of Connecticut. Some of the same forces for decriminalizing quality-of-life issues in New York are now focused on Connecticut; and this brainchild, LCO No. 3471, is intended to handcuff our cities and towns, and their respected police departments.

Connecticut legislators, I urge you to please **JUST SAY NO to LCO 3471.**

Sincerely,  
Maggie Moller