

Good morning,

I was hope this email finds you well during these difficult times in our country. I realized that you are a state representative for my part of town in Seymour and wished to express my concern to you about the recent Police Accountability Bill that is currently in session.

Let me give you a background, I am a police officer in one of the most crime ridden city's in the state. I have done it all, I have seen it all, and I have pushed through it all in terms of experiences, mind you I've only been on the job for five years. I've seen some of the most horrific scenes one can only begin to imagine.

Let me begin by saying police officers are not opposed to reform, in fact, we welcome it to a certain degree. You can ask just about any good officer if they would like more training, and they would jump for joy like a kid in a candy store. We love training but it's very expensive for us to do it on our own and depending on local municipalities they aren't often granted to attend for fiscal reasons. What happen in Minneapolis with George Floyd was absolutely horrifying and tragic. I've asked every single officer I work with what they thought about it, and literally Every single one was disgusted by that incident. Those actions have no place in policing.

I then noticed there was a conversation about police overtime regarding the Police Accountability Bill, though I can't confirm if this is true or false. However, if true please consider this argument. One of the first things we know is that Police Officers have an approximate 50% divorce rate. Living in Connecticut is not the cheapest thing to do or raise a family. Most department already have a cap on how many hours an officer can work to avoid not getting enough sleep. For example, my department caps total working hours at 70 hours per week including our regular shift. Many officers are single and are raising their children alone. While dealing with the things we do, and to raise children alone in CT at \$60,000 a year base salary is difficult if not impossible. Sometimes overtime helps many us get over the hump with bills and mortgage. I've noticed many people on unemployment get additional money during COVID but nothing for our first responders. I ask you to please challenge your colleagues when it comes to these area of the bill. This is not a time for knee jerk reactions that will only put civilians in more harms way.

Areas of Concern:

Police Overtime

Taking away qualified immunity

Thank you for your time, god bless and thank you for your service.