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From: Melina Roise
Sent: Wednesday, July 15, 2020 2:27 PM
To: JudTestimony
Subject: Testimony on CT's Police Accountability Bill for Hearing 7/17

To the CT Legislature's Judiciary Committee:

As a lifetime resident of Connecticut and active supporter of the Black Lives Matter movement, I am proud that my state is taking action to hold our systems accountable for reversing systemic racism. As I'm sure you are aware, the asks of the Black community at this time are overwhelming in support of "defunding the police," or, shifting the overfunding of police across this nation towards Black communities, educational opportunities, healthcare, and social services which will ultimately aid in the reduction of crime more than policing does ([statistics prove that more police do not lead to less crime](#)).

I am afraid that this bill is moving our state in the wrong direction, away from these asks and closer to just appeasing the public without creating real change. This country has a long history of incorporating "trainings and certifications" (which cost MORE money), requiring more equipment such as body cameras or switching away from "military-grade equipment" (which costs MORE money), conducting more hearings (again which costs MORE money), and more (as are all included in your bill) and ultimately do not cause lasting change. However, I do completely agree the mandate for more POC police officers and the encouragement of social workers on this

As a community activist and leader, I would propose that this bill be modified to mandate a certain percentage of police budget per year be cut and shifted towards creating non-police crisis response teams, that assault weapons be outlawed entirely from our police force, and that original police training procedures be extended to include more training hours for de-escalation and anti-racism and less training hours for combat training.

Thank you for reading and considering this alternative. And again, thank you for making an action towards anti-racism.

Sincerely,
Melina Roise
Resident of Ivoryton, CT