

The government is reacting to an incident with legislation that is not well thought out and is detrimental to the public. I write to state I DO NOT SUPPORT the upcoming, "Police Reform Bill." Among other things in the bill, the taking of qualified immunity is a disastrous step in the wrong direction.

"Qualified immunity balances two important interests—the need to hold public officials accountable when they exercise power irresponsibly and the need to shield officials from harassment, distraction, and liability when they perform their duties reasonably." In Harlow v. Fitzgerald, 457 U.S. 800 (1982)"

The proposed "Police Reform Bill" wants to get rid of the protections that police officers and their families have against civil lawsuits from members of society.

There are an absurd number of untruthful accusations against police on a daily basis. The lack of protection will absolutely cripple police families.

The passing of this bill will deter police officers who go out and get guns, drugs and dangerous people off our street on a daily basis from doing so. Qualified Immunity does not protect bad cops, it protects the good ones.

It seems that politicians need to look at facts. There are 900,000 police officers in the United States. These officers have over 2 Billion contacts with the public per year, yet we seem to think there is an overabundance of police violence. The fact is that police do a remarkable job not using force.

The crux of the argument circles around UCR statistics showing that a group that makes up 13% of the population makes up 26% of deaths by police. This statistic on its own indicates there is a problem. However, if you delve deeper into the UCR numbers, people want to ignore that the same group makes up 46% of assailants that have killed officers by firearm and make up 40% of assailants that have killed officers by dangerous instrument.

It is estimated that the medical industry is responsible for between 215,000 and 400,000 deaths per year. Yet there is no outrage there!

I am against racism in all of its forms. I also support reasonable police reform. Reform that encompasses creating of community oriented policing, problem solving policing and less enforcement based policing. However, I am not for knee-jerk legislation that endangers the good officers out there, their families and the public.

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