

Dear Members of the Connecticut State Judiciary Committee,

As the Judiciary Committee is holding a hearing today regarding the Police Accountability Bill No. 3471, I wanted to send in my comments regarding this bill. I'm writing in support for this bill overall, and in advocacy for some amendments to strengthen it further.

I support:

- **mandate officers to intervene** if peers are engaging in violence or other forms of misconduct
- **give civilian police review boards more power** (specifically subpoena power) when reviewing complaints made by the public
- **end qualified immunity**
- **end & defund use of military force**
- outlawing police search without probable cause
- outlawing police officers from asking for any documents other than driver's license at traffic stops
- banning stop & frisk
- requiring officers to display their badge

I disagree with:

- increasing funding for municipal/state PDs
- Police and politicians making up 12/20 members of the Police Officer Standards and Training Council - I believe civilians from various civic representations should make up the majority
- adding social workers to police departments - they should not work under the same department.

We need to strengthen or add:

- **ban chokeholds & neck restraints** - *I saw the bill permits them in certain circumstances, and I believe they should be fully banned.*
- **decertifying officers convicted of misconduct**
- **banning no-knock warrants**

Though this does not address the larger conversation of divesting from police and reinvesting in communities on a larger scale, I believe this is a pivotal moment in our state history to make important changes in legislation to make Connecticut safer for all residents, especially residents of color.

Best,

Morgan Sheppard

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