

My name is Patricia Kavanaugh and I reside at 62 Hadley St. Oakville, Ct. 06779. I am writing this to voice my concern over the new regulations being proposed for our Police Departments in Ct. I fear we will lose many great Officers due to them being afraid to do their jobs due to fears of being sued, falsely accused, losing their jobs etc. I agree we need more minority officers but fear cities will hire less qualified individuals too meet the quotas! I have no problem with having Mental Health workers respond to calls with Officers when they have calls for people who are suicidal, psychotic, have drug intoxication etc. Waterbury PD Has a CIT (Crisis Intervention Team) for this! I disagree with a prohibition on traffic stop searches. Our Officers need to be able to search a vehicle or person if the person is acting suspiciously. Many Officers get shot on these stops! I believe Qualified Immunity needs to stay in place so our police are protected from frivolous lawsuits which can ruin them financially! I have no problem with requiring mental health exams periodically as Officers see a lot of gruesome things and can develop PTSD!

Lastly I strongly disagree with prohibiting the use of military equipment. Swat teams need that type of heavy duty vehicles and night vision equipment. We all paid for this equipment with our federal taxes and the towns should be able to put it to use when needed instead of it ending up in a dump somewhere! My biggest concern is don't hamstring our Police with lots of rules and regulations that aren't needed! We have great Police in Ct. There may be a few bad apples but those can be weeded out! We don't want to become like N.Y. C. Thank you for your time!

Patricia Kavanaugh