

July 15, 2020

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To: The Connecticut Judicial Committee

Re: Draft LCO #3471 An Act Concerning Police Accountability

Please accept this as written testimony in the above mentioned matter of Police Accountability.

As a citizen, the most concerning part of #3471 is the elimination of qualified immunity for police officers. This will encourage nuisance lawsuits in incredible numbers. Officers will not be able to work during these periods and the expense will be phenomenal to officers with NO PENALTY to hungry lawyers and plaintiffs filing nuisance lawsuits. Officers are well aware from their initial stint at the academy that a mistake will result in their prosecution and if found guilty, prison time. Dedicated officers risk harm and consequences under current Connecticut policy. Why would anyone pursue a career in law enforcement with the elimination of qualified immunity. Connecticut is having enough trouble recruiting officers.

The effect of eliminating qualified immunity if passed will be a degradation of the force itself. Officers will leave their departments as soon as they are able to find new jobs and the recruiting process will be MORE difficult. Officers will delay in taking necessary preventive action possibly causing injury to themselves and the public to rethink what they have been trained to do.

What is more harrowing is what is not included in #3471. There is no recommendation for Civics to be taught in school. Young people seem to be ignorant of the fact they are required to raise their hands when told to do so by officers. They also seem to be ignorant that they must exit their vehicles when told by law enforcement to do so. Civics, working ethics, taxes and rights and responsibilities must be taught. By not moving forward with such a recommendation in schooling its like you are sending lambs to slaughter in the event they refuse to show their hands and keep them up or put their hands in their pockets. At least two schools that I am aware of in Connecticut have included reckless social justice/anti racism curriculum indoctrinating young children to believe that Police hate Blacks and will kill them because of the color of their skin alone. Its time for children to learn they have civic responsibilities as well. To not refer this matter is caving to the belief that all police are bad and are at fault in every interaction with the public. If you don't move forward with this you ultimately may be responsible for a tragic death.

Connecticut State Police also need to be prepared for riots as are evident in the news everyday by a new breed of young white youth that disrespect any rule of law. This is "the everyone gets a trophy

generation" and should be prosecuted to the full extent of the law for intentional violence aimed at police officers. These people are taking advantage of the a movement to produce good changes in policing and policy in regards to institutional racism. Our State Police force should be equipped with neccesary equipment to protect the public. I am not in favor of a ban to equip our officers with controled military equipment. Luckily, Connecticut has not seen the violence which is becoming all too familiar in other states. We cannot send a message that will normalize riots. Remember Connecticut has seen Sandy Hook, the Distribution massacre and the Connecticut Lottery shooting. We are not immune to violence. We need our police.

With Respect,

Patricia Tartaglino, Torrington, CT