

Senator Winfield, Rep. Stafstrom, Ranking Members Kissel and Rebimbas, and Members of the Judiciary Committee,

As a resident of Kent, Connecticut - it's important that I make my voice heard and make sure that my elected officials fight for the rights of their constituents. For too long, our government has been silent about the value of Black lives. We live in the legacy of slavery, taught to be racist and selfish. I come today to urge police accountability and funding for social programs.

In the Police Accountability Bill:

- sections 1-4 and 15 give police too much autonomy to police themselves. A separate body should be judging the acts of police, not the police themselves.
- CT should ABSOLUTELY divert funding from the police and spend more money on social workers, mental health specialists, public housing and education. The safest communities do not have the most cops - they have the most resources!
- sections 8,9,17,30 , 40, 41 all look great.

Thank you for taking the time to read this and for your hard work. Help Connecticut stay on the right side of history, and make sure that Black Lives Matter.

Thank you,
Rachel Seidman

Sent from my iPhone