

Dear Sir and/or Madam,

My name is Roy A. Piper and I am a retired Naval Officer, having served over 23 years active duty in the U.S. Navy. I am also retired from the State of Connecticut having served 20 years with the Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security, and I have served two terms as First Selectman for the Town of Canterbury where, statutorily, I served as the Chief of Police for the Town.

I am writing in support of most of the proposed LCO #3471 An Act Concerning Police Accountability. In light of the recent events in our country regarding alleged Police Brutality, it is apparent that there are a few "bad apples" within the ranks of our Police Force that have tarnished the overall image of the many fine, dedicated police officers serving our country. I realize also, that we, as a country, and as a State, must do something to correct the actions of the few.

As I stated, I am in favor of "most" of the proposed bill, except for paragraph 41 that proposes to remove the very protection that our police officers currently have from personal civil law suits. This "Civil Cause of Action Against Certain Police Officers" removes the protection and opens the door wide for civil lawsuits against our Police Officers. Having this paragraph in the proposed Law will cause a police officer to possibly hesitate, and delay necessary actions against a perpetrator, which could be costly, or even deadly, as the officer will have the possibility of a civil lawsuit against him or herself in the back of their minds during their response to the situation. This delay, no matter how slight, will place the officer and/or the public at much greater risks.

I ask that paragraph #41 be stricken from the proposed bill, or at least written in such a manner as to maintain the current level of protection from civil lawsuits against our police officers.

My final thought in this letter is simply this. "If you cannot stand behind our Police Officers, please feel free to stand in front of them".

Respectfully,

Roy A. Piper
Canterbury, CT