

Dear State Legislators,

I would like to pass along my concerns regarding the Police Accountability Bill current before the Legislature. I am a retired Connecticut State Police Trooper and I am current an East Granby Police Officer and have been in law enforcement for thirty years. I oppose the removal of qualified immunity from police officers. Please understand that by removing the protection officers have it will open us up to frivolous lawsuits for just about anything we do. We live in an age where everyone wants to sue each another. It will cause officers to slow the decision-making process, which could be deadly for the police officer or victims of active crimes. If nothing else only remove qualified immunity if an officer is convicted of a crime related to their duties. By doing this you continue to protect those of us who are good hard-working police officers who do the right thing and allow civil action against those who do the wrong thing, but removing qualified immunity completely for all police officers is a disaster waiting to happen. Judges, prosecutors, and even legislators have absolute immunity, which is a much higher level of immunity. Why do those people who have hours, days, weeks, or even months to debate decisions and are not putting their lives in danger at that time have a higher level of immunity then those police officers who have to make split second life and death decision. This section of the bill could be devastating causing police officers to retire or resign and making it even harder to fill these jobs that not many want to do now. If qualified immunity is removed officers will get in less trouble for doing nothing, which is the wrong thing, rather than doing right thing and their jobs. No good police officer will want to expose everything they have worked for in life (house, savings, and retirement) to do this job. No good police officer wants bad police officers working with them. Address the bad police officers that act inappropriately and do the wrong thing. I would encourage every legislator before making a decision on police use of force and qualified immunity to request the Connecticut State Police Training Academy and / or Connecticut Police Officers Standards and Training Council Training Academy set up use of force training scenarios that police recruits are required to go through for legislators so they have a better understanding of police use of force. The only way to really know about it, is to really do it! Protect those that are protecting you and please have the qualified immunity language removed from the bill.

Scott Menard

Somers, Connecticut