

To those with sensible expectations,

It would be wonderful if everyone could live peacefully together and help one another in need. However, that would be improbable and far from reality. Therefore, in order to maintain social order, we need and rely on those who dedicate their lives to protect and serve their communities by choosing law enforcement as a career.

It is important that every American citizen understands that the only thing that protects them from anarchy are laws. These same laws guarantee every U. S. citizen his or her rights and freedom. We give the responsibility to enforce our laws to police officers. As a free nation we rely on no one else to do this task. When anyone feels threatened or is in need and dials 911, a police officer usually responds. Over 240 million calls are made to 911 each year. The vast majority of these calls are unrelated to emergency events or crimes in progress, yet police are often the de-facto responder. In fact, there is no such thing as a typical day/ night for a police officer since they are responding to whatever and whomever they encounter during their shift. We expect a police officer to be there to help us whenever we need them.

However, the more law enforcement people that we put on the job the more there becomes a chance that we will get a police officer who abuses their power and does not meet the high standards of enforcing our laws. With 35,000 police officers, the New York City police department alone is the highest mobilization of people outside of the U.S. military. It would be inconceivable to believe that with this many police officers, there is not a bad one! However, we should not judge every police officer on account of one. Our Connecticut state representatives are now proposing a bill on the heels of the social unrest occurring across our country. Why has there not been such a proposal before? Why has police reform in the state of Connecticut become such a priority today that a special session is now being called at our state house in July during a world pandemic? As citizens of the state of Connecticut we are fortunate to have among the finest police officers in the United States. I do believe that in order to be the finest you must set a high standard and adhere to that standard. If we would like to help our police officers adhere to the high standard which we expect them to uphold, then we should propose legislation to help them do so. However, this bill seems to be directed at our police officers as a result of social injustice in other parts of our country that have dominated the news media. Yes, social injustice anywhere in our country is unacceptable and unjust to us all, wherever we may be. However, our Connecticut Police Officers should not be judged on account. Let's be sensible about what can be done to make our police officers even better than they already are and make change if change is needed, but do it as a pro-active step for advancement and not as a response to social sentiment!

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I apologize for sending my testimony late. My state senator sent an email about 4 hours before it was due on Friday asking to submit testimony which I only was able to write this Sunday morning.