

TESTIMONY ON DRAFT LCO #3471 AN ACT CONCERNING POLICE
ACCOUNTABILITY
JULY 17, 2020

To State Senators Gary Winfield, Steven Stafstrom, John Kissel, Rosa Rebimbas, and to all the honorable members of the Judiciary Committee. My name is Steven Cousin. My address is 105 Lowin Avenue, in New Haven. I am the pastor of Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church located in New Haven. I stand in favor of the bill An Act Concerning Police Accountability.

Strengths of the bill:

- (1) Police Officers undergo Mental Health Assessments
- (2) The Establishment of a Civilian Review Board with subpoena power
- (3) The creation of the Office of the Inspector General
- (4) Increased parameters for decertification of Police Officers due to the use of inappropriate excessive force

Areas for improvement:

- (1) Increase the age of the applicants from 21 to 24(5)
- (2) Increase education requirement from high school diploma to an associate's degree

I admire and appreciate the bipartisan effort that was put into crafting this bill. Please continue every effort to ensure both sides of the aisle are in communication with one another.

Thank you for your service.

Steven Cousin