Strengthen & Pass Police Accountability Bill in Special Session

As a resident and voter from Manchester, CT, I write in support of LCO #3471: An Act Concerning Police Accountability (AACPA) with amendments. I particularly urge you to pass civilian review boards with subpoena and full investigative powers, acquisition and use of body cameras with consequences for failure to use them, mandating that officers intervene when they witness excessive force while prohibiting and eliminating retaliation from other police officers, and restrictions on acquisition and use of military equipment for our local police departments.

These and other steps under discussion are important steps. We must recognize that they will not complete the work necessary to bring our police systems into compliance with contemporary needs. The effort must continue beyond these steps and include reallocation of resources to engage the skills and abilities of other professions working together with police to address outbreaks of stress and violence in our communities.

Susan and Jay Stoppelman Manchester