

To Whom it may concern,

I am emailing you regarding the police accountability bill. As a citizen of this state, I SUPPORT this bill being passed, and I STRONGLY urge you as a representative of this state, that you consider allowing this bill to pass as it currently written. I am not satisfied with the way local police officers protect all our communities.

Make no mistake about it, the people opposed to this bill have stated most officers will either retire, quit, or move to another state. If a police reform bill drives officers to leave their department or the state, they obviously are NOT fit to wear the badge.

This bill will ensure police officers are working for the good of all our communities. Stripping police of qualified immunity will force these men and women to be held accountable when they act without hesitation on any call in any situation that results in the injury of innocent citizens. Hopefully this will force officers to rely more on de-escalation than violence.

Another excellent aspect of this bill is to have justice impacted persons on a review board. For decades, police officers have not been held accountable for failing to protect and serve as they claim to do.

Those who oppose this bill are not people that are faced with the constant failings of the systemic racism that permeates every aspect of our society. They seem to think that the lives of police officers are more important than the lives of innocent people that have been murdered by police.

Officers made a choice to put that uniform on daily to aid our communities and provide a safe environment. But there are some that are not living up to this standard and oath. I strongly believe this bill needs to be passed to ensure the safety of all our citizens, regardless of race, ethnicity, immigration status, and gender/sexual identity. We need to hold police accountable for their decisions regarding violence.

Please consider all our children's future and vote yes to this important bill.

Thank you for your time.

Respectfully,
Theresa Valenti-O'Neill

Sent from my iPhone