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Members of the Judiciary Committee

Regarding LCO # 3471, I thank you all for the work on this. I understand that section 41, regarding qualified immunity, is one of the most contentious items in the draft. However, in my humble estimation, it is one of the most vital. Qualified Immunity flies in the face of the maxim that no one is above the law and denies victims of police misconduct an avenue towards some form of restitution. Ending Qualified Immunity would not force police to do a worse job, it would encourage them to behave in the manner that is universally touted, that of the good guys. If a so-called "rogue officer" does have to rethink their behavior, isn't that what we want? Good officers should not have to worry about the ramifications of their actions.

There is language in the draft that concerns me, for instance, what constitutes reasonable force is incredibly subjective. Despite that, there is much in this draft that would be welcomed legislation. Citizen's Review Boards with subpoena power, enhanced bias, and cultural competency training, mandatory body cameras, minority recruitment, mental health assessments, an independent Inspector General, and yes, ending qualified immunity. While it is not a perfect bill, I am in full support of it and ask that you pass it.

With kind regards,
Tracy Bowens