

Hello,

My name is Valerie Doty and I live in Naugatuck. I am writing to express my support for LCO# 3471 "An Act Concerning Police Accountability." Specifically, I am writing to ask if you will support it, as well.

The idea that police use force to make themselves more safe is not true.

We have seen police use life-preserving skills when responding to white male mass shooters like Dylann Roof. In that case, police never found it "necessary" to "use force," even though Dylann Roof had murdered several people within a church. Police protected him without conditions.

But when police interact with people of color, particularly Black and Brown youth like Jayson Negron, Mubarak Souleman, Zoe Dowdell, Corbin Cooper, Jarelle Gibbs, Vincent Folkwes (Kuda), Malik Jones, Anthony Vega (Chulo), and so many others in this state who have been murdered at the hands of police, the "use of force" becomes "necessary."

Police in this state do not prioritize preventing harm when they come into contact with people of color. We know this because we have seen police escalate violence and cause harm over and over again: in over 30 police killings within the last three years, in their interactions with protestors, and in everyday abuses against people of color.

The conditions that determine when police will "use force" and when police practice "de-escalation" tactics are directly connected to a person's race, gender, housing status, mental health, and disabilities. And this needs to end.

I hope that you will support LCO# 3471 "An Act Concerning Police Accountability" and help make Connecticut a safer and more equal state for everyone.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Valerie Doty