

Dear Connecticut Legislators,

My name is Vanessa Hawke and I live in Southington. I am writing to express my very strong support for LCO# 3471 "An Act Concerning Police Accountability." I am writing to support the following items and ask that amendments be made to make this bill even better:

- Allow municipalities to establish a civilian review board with inherent subpoena powers.
- Outlaw police searches without probably cause, even if the person being searched consents.
- Outlaw police from asking for any documents other than a driver's license during traffic stops
- Mandatory intervention when a police officer witnesses another officer using excessive or illegal force
- END QUALIFIED IMMUNITY, PERIOD.
- Ban stop-and-frisk
- Demilitarize all police departments in Connecticut, including disposing of all military equipment currently possessed by police departments.
- Require that police officers prominently display their badge and do not obscure it in any way.
- Establish a stronger Use of Force standard. Require that any use of deadly force is 'necessary' rather than 'objectively reasonable.' That is too broad. This should be applicable to the officer's entire engagement with a person/people, not just the moment when severe or deadly force is used.

Additionally, I want to make clear the parts of the bill I do not agree with, as follows:

- Funding should NOT be increased for police departments - municipal or state. Instead, funds should be reallocated to social services.
- Social workers should NOT be added under police department purview. Social workers should be used for certain emergency and mental health calls, *when the social worker has the appropriate training for the situation at hand*. Every social worker has a different background and expertise. They are not all trained in the same areas and they cannot be expected to be used as a 'one size fits all' solution. They should not work FOR the police department.
- Police and politicians should NOT have such a large representation on the Police Officer Standards and Training Council. The council should hold a civilian majority, as the citizens of Connecticut are the ones who should be holding the Police and politicians accountable.

Thank you for your time.

Vanessa Hawke

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Warmly,

Vanessa Hawke, CCCE, MSP (trained)

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