



Legislative Testimony
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Written Testimony Opposing House Bill 6863, An Act Concerning Police Officer Recruitment and Retention

Senator Gaston, Representative Boyd, Ranking Members Cicarella and Howard, and distinguished members of the Public Safety Committee:

My name is Jess Zaccagnino, and I am the policy counsel for the American Civil Liberties Union of Connecticut (ACLU-CT). I am writing to testify in opposition to House Bill 6863, An Act Concerning Police Officer Recruitment and Retention.

The ACLU-CT is committed to ending police violence and racism in policing in all forms. In addition to accountability measures, Connecticut must also divest from policing and reinvest in programs that build strong and safe communities. To build an equitable future for all people in Connecticut, policymakers must reduce policing's responsibilities, scale, and tools. The ACLU-CT does not support initiatives that increase the role of policing in our society, and instead supports the reinvestment of funds from policing into programs that support community strength and health as the means to truly move Connecticut in the right direction. Real public safety means access to mental healthcare, affordable housing, income, proper childcare, opportunities for young people, and safe recreational spaces. This legislature must take steps to address these root necessities for community wellbeing through methods that do not increase policing, rather than fund explorer programs and salary increases. As such, the ACLU-CT opposes House Bill 6863, and encourages this Committee to do the same.