



Legislative Testimony
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Written Testimony Opposing Senate Bill 464, An Act Concerning Single-Party Consent to the Recording of a Conversation

Senator Winfield, Representative Stafstrom, Ranking Members Kissel and Fishbein, and distinguished members of the Judiciary 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 Senate Bill 464, An Act Concerning Single-Party Consent to the Recording of a Conversation.

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.

Because of systemic racism, Black and brown people are disproportionately affected by policing and the criminal legal system, which includes surveillance by police. Senate Bill 464 is particularly concerning because it removes the requirement that all parties consent to a recording and instead would only require one party to consent. This shift to one-party consent is done blanketly, with no exception or guardrails for instances of police surveillance. Without exemptions for policing, Senate Bill 464 is likely to result in the increased surveillance and, as a result, the increased incarceration of people in this state with distinct harm to Black and brown communities. As such, the ACLU-CT opposes Senate Bill 464 and urges this Committee to do the same.

