

CT General Assembly Public Health Committee members,

By this email we are stating our support for The Community Party's improvements to the act H.B. No. 5271 AN ACT CONCERNING MENTAL HEALTH TRAINING IN STATE AND LOCAL POLICE TRAINING PROGRAMS AND THE AVAILABILITY OF PROVIDERS OF MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES ON AN ON-CALL BASIS.

We support having a mental health professional work with police when people who have special needs or are in crisis situations need police assistance. Our police officers, whose job it is to protect and serve, can only be greatly assisted in these types of situations by the presence of a trained mental healthcare professional. To that end, additional police training, increased hours of training, can provide a better outcome for all as with education comes understanding of how to assist in these specific situations.

Also wording for someone who is experiencing an emotional or physical crisis should be included in the language of the bill as it will cover additional situations that arise.

Having a trained specialist along with a police officer show up together at these types of calls will help spare any child who may be innocently involved, irrevocable damage by having immediate care.

There also needs to be penalties for any officer who uses excessive force on mentally ill individuals, people in crisis and above all when children are present.

We trust you will take our recommendations into consideration when you finalize this bill.

Thank you.

Sincerely,  
Paul & Kathleen Morosky  
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