To the Judiciary Committee, regarding the Police Reform Bill, specifically the amendment to CGS § 53-22(c) to establish a standard of “objective reasonableness” based on judicial hindsight.

The current proposal at line 1227 of the bill states:

53a-22(c) [A] (1) Except as provided in subsection (d) of this section, a peace officer, special policeman appointed under section 29-18b or authorized official of the Department of Correction or the Board of Pardons and Paroles is justified in using deadly physical force upon another person for the purposes specified in subsection (b) of this section only when his or her actions are objectively reasonable under the circumstances,

I respectfully urge you to consider that the Supreme Court has determined that “the "reasonableness" of a particular use of force must be judged from the perspective of a reasonable officer on the scene, rather than with the 20/20 vision of hindsight…… . The calculus of reasonableness must embody allowance for the fact that police officers are often forced to make split-second judgments -- in circumstances that are tense, uncertain, and rapidly evolving -- about the amount of force that is necessary in a particular situation. GRAHAM v. CONNOR ET AL., 490 U.S. 386,455; 109 S. Ct. 1865 **; 104 L. Ed. 2d 443 ***; 1989 U.S. LEXIS 2467 ****; 57 U.S.L.W. 4513.

Respectfully submitted,

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