Dear Connecticut Legislators,

We are the New Britain Racial Justice Coalition. We are a community organization based in New Britain, CT focused on eradicating structural racism. We are writing to share our support for “An Act Concerning Police Accountability.” Specifically, we are writing to support the following:

- Granting power that allows municipalities to establish Civilian Review Boards with Subpoena powers.
- Outlawing police searches without probable cause, even if the person consents to the search.
- Outlawing police offers from asking for any documents (such as green cards, and other immigration documents) other than a driver's license during traffic stops.
- Mandating a duty to intervene if a police officer witnesses another officer using excessive or illegal use-of-force.
- Ending qualified immunity for officers who violate people’s civil rights.
- Banning stop-and-frisk in Connecticut.
- Demilitarizing of Connecticut police departments, including the disposal of all military equipment currently held by police departments.
- Requiring that police officers to prominently display their badge.

We also want to highlight the components of the bill we disagree with, which include:

- Increasing funding for police departments, whether municipal or state. We support the immediate defunding and divestment from police departments and reallocation of these resources for social services.
- Adding social workers to police departments. The current bill calls for a study be conducted by departments on this matter. Social workers should be used for certain emergency/mental health calls but they should not work under police departments.
- The overrepresentation of police officers and politicians on the Police Officer Standards and Training Council. They make up 12/20 of the Council’s membership. This council should be dominated by civilians not politicians or police officers.

Thank you for your time.

Best,
New Britain Racial Justice Coalition