

To Whom It May Concern,

Many years ago, my father was a police officer. I watched him proudly leave for work in uniform at night to work in the town in which we lived. I was so proud of him and the good he was doing helping our community.

He inspired me at such a young age, that I knew I wanted to be a police officer since I was 5 years old.

Today, I am a Police Officer and a mother of three wonderful children (a teacher, a nurse and a junior in high school).

I have been a police officer for 19 years now, rising through my ranks from patrolman to detective and sergeant. I have mentored many officers over the years and in that time, I have seen the world change. One thing that has not changed however, is the desire in the heart of most officers from the time we were children to be a helper to our communities. New recruits still enter this career with hopes of making a difference, as my father and I did so many years ago. I believe that the majority of us still strive to make that difference, even after years of working in this field. I still love the community in which I work. In my years in law enforcement, I have also had the honor and privilege to meet officers from around the globe. I have yet to hear an officer remark how they took this job to abuse their authority.

George Bernard Shaw said "Progress is impossible without change, and those who cannot change their minds cannot change anything". This is such a true statement. The current climate has dictated that policing as a whole needs change. This change should lead to positive outcomes for our community, our state and our country, but the actions of the few should not bar us from being a part of the conversation. We are simply asking that you vote against the proposed bill as it stands in order to provide a fair opportunity for all to engage in meaningful dialogue where a positive solution may be reached.

I am proud of what I do, and I know my family is proud of me too. Please give us an opportunity to be a part of the change.

Thank you very much.

Respectfully,

Amanda Devan, PhD

Waterbury, CT

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