



April 20, 2015

The Honorable Dannel Malloy  
Governor, State of Connecticut  
210 Capitol Avenue  
Hartford, CT 06106

Re: Police brutality

Dear Governor Malloy

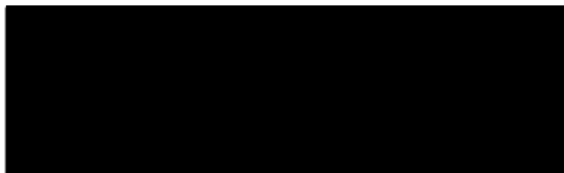
I am enclosing a copy of a letter which I forwarded to Mr. Courtney. I am also enclosing a copy of his reply. Please note:

- 1) Extreme delay in answering my letter
- 2) Answer addressed to my wife instead of to me
- 3) Statement that a direct action will not be taken on this matter.

Considering these three facts, I believe I addressed this concern to the wrong person, and am therefore forwarding it to you.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



COMMITTEES:

ARMED SERVICES

SUBCOMMITTEES:  
RANKING MEMBER—SEAFORER AND  
PROJECTION FORCES  
READINESS

EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE

SUBCOMMITTEES:  
HIGHER EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE TRAINING  
HEALTH, EMPLOYMENT, LABOR, AND PENSIONS



Joe Courtney  
Congress of the United States  
2nd District, Connecticut  
April 3, 2015

WASHINGTON OFFICE:

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WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
P (202) 225-2076  
F (202) 225-4977

DISTRICT OFFICES:

55 MAIN STREET, SUITE 250  
NORWICH, CT 06380  
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F (860) 886-2874

77 HAZARD AVENUE, UNIT J  
ENFIELD, CT 06082  
P (860) 741-8011  
F (860) 741-6036

Ms. [REDACTED]

Dear Ms. [REDACTED],

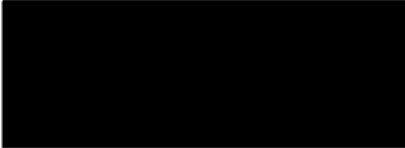
Thank you for contacting me regarding your concerns with law enforcement.

I appreciate you sharing your firsthand experience in the Connecticut prison system with me. I agree with you that the job of our frontline law enforcement officers is a difficult and dangerous one, and sometimes the use of appropriate force when interacting with suspects can be necessary. That said, there is a necessary balance to be struck as well, and above all a need for transparency and accountability when concerns are raised. While I do not see a direct action for me to take on your concerns as your federal Congressman, I will be sure to keep your views in mind as Congress, and our nation, grapple with these tough questions.

Again, thank you for sharing your views on this issue with me. Should you have any additional comments or suggestions, please do not hesitate to contact me in the future. For more information on my work in Congress, please visit my website at [courtney.house.gov](http://courtney.house.gov) and sign up for my e-newsletter at [courtney.house.gov/forms/emailsignup](http://courtney.house.gov/forms/emailsignup). You can also connect with me at [facebook.com/joecourtney](https://facebook.com/joecourtney) or receive updates from [twitter.com/repjoecourtney](https://twitter.com/repjoecourtney).

Sincerely,


JOE COURTNEY  
Member of Congress

  
February 8, 2015

The Honorable Joe Courtney  
2348 Rayburn H.O.B.  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Re: Police brutality

Dear Mr. Courtney:

I have recently retired from a 14 year position as a medical provider in the Connecticut Prison system. During this time, I had many opportunities to observe behavior by local police departments in this state. I was frequently asked to treat patients who gave histories of being dragged from their cars, thrown to the ground, ordered to lie flat, after which they were tazed or pepper sprayed despite the fact that they in no way were attempting to flee or to resist arrest. This occurred much more frequently in the town of  but no Connecticut town was free of such incidents. Most of the individuals involved were Black or Hispanic, and poor.

I tried numerous times to alert my supervisors of this activity, approaching my immediate supervisor, the physician involved in supervising all physicians in the system, the physician in charge of the entire medical department, the supervisor of prison activities, etc. All attempted for about 2 weeks to address my complaints, but all returned after that time stating that nothing could be done by them.

The occurrences are many and extend over the course of more than 10 years, so that I cannot cite individual cases, but I would like to bring this to your attention because I believe that this police activity is illegal and should it be discovered, might lead to punishment of the officers involved, although I feel sure that they only behave in this way because of lack of appropriate training.

The policeman's occupation is very dangerous and he must be given the right to use force if necessary for self-defense or attempted escape. However, I believe that the force used is inappropriate. Indeed it becomes evident that many of these actions are taken to "punish" suspected lawbreakers rather than to control them. I believe that if this practice is allowed to continue, it might eventually be

discovered and presented by the media in a way that would be unfair to the good work of most police departments.

I do not expect that you can do anything about this immediately, but wish to let you know so it will help in your discussions with other members of congress.

Thank you for your help.

Sincerely,

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HARTFORD CT 061

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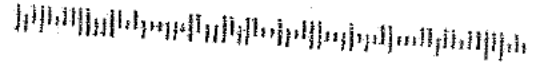
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210 Capitol Avenue  
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RECEIVED

APR 22 2015

GOVERNOR'S OFFICE

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