

April 14, 2021

To the House Judiciary Committee,

In the tragic wake of another police killing of a black man, I write to you in support of three bills: HF 1104, HF 640 and HF1103. As a pastor who is committed to justice, all of these bills promote accountability within a police system whose very roots were designed to enforce white supremacy. It's time to re-think and re-form our police, and I believe we can. So many officers truly love people and want to be a force for good. But with un-checked power, permission to use military force, and little accountability, the system is set up to be more hurtful than helpful.

I support HF1104 because it ends qualified immunity for police officers, allowing for police and the government to face the consequences of violent actions against civilians.

I support HF 640 because it will begin to hold police officers accountable to the citizens they are pledged to serve. I think that this is one of the more critical bills. Oversight is everything – for far too long the “blue line” of silence has protected those who perhaps have mental health issues, anger issues or choose to exploit those with less power.

I support HF 1103 because it provides more accountability and public access to what actually happens during police/citizen interactions.

Thank you for considering these bills.

Sincerely,

Reverend Mary Koon
821 Hilltop Road
Mendota Heights, MN 55118