

Chair Bynum and Members of the Subcommittee,

I strongly support House Bill 2936 and urge you to actively work to prioritize and bring this bill to a floor vote. Police officers should protect the public, common good but this is not possible if they hold racist, white supremacist beliefs that bias them against our BIPOC community members or if they belong to extremist organizations that harm and terrorize BIPOC communities. Investigating the character and the associations of a potential police officer should be a mandatory part of screening for any person who is entrusted with protecting our public safety. I have repeatedly read about cases of police officers who have acted out their racism on their jobs or in their private lives and I am disgusted that, as a taxpayer, I have contributed to the salaries of people who are actually harming the public good. Myself, my spouse, and my child are white and have not personally been subjected to police misconduct or violence but we have community members who have and we are impacted by what we see in the news. These patterns of police misconduct and violence towards people of color need to end and this is a step in that direction.

This bill is necessary and timely. I support this bill as a mother, a health care provider, and a small business owner and I hope you will too,

Catherine Bailey  
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