

Marissa Arrigoni
Resident
LD 1447

Hello,

My name is Marissa Arrigoni. I am licensed as an LCPC-c in the state of Maine. I have done prior research on Police Brutality in my master's program and presented at a national conference regarding qualified immunity and proposed changes law enforcement needs to make when working with individuals with mental health concerns. I've also presented on what mental health professionals can do to help change police brutality. I am currently a doctoral student in Clinical Psychology and in the process of proposing my dissertation on the lived experience of losing a loved one with mental health concerns to police brutality.

It is evident across all the literature that police violence is rooted in racism. It has roots back to slavery and lynching. While Black men are twice as likely to be shot by police than their White counterparts, all police violence is rooted in systemic racism. You cannot examine police violence without examining the negative impact it has on marginalized populations and disenfranchised groups. I urge you to consider the support of this bill. This type of training could help reduce officer's bias and stigma amongst not only communities of color but all populations.

I also have personal experience with police violence, particularly in the state of Maine. I am the little sister of Cameron Arrigoni, a White male shot by police in 2013 while he was experiencing depressive symptoms. I fully believe that had this type of training been implemented or taken seriously at the time, it may have prevented this loss.

Thank you for time in reading this. If there is any further information needed or anything further I can do to support this bill, please do not hesitate to reach out.

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Marissa Arrigoni, MA, NCC, TLLP-D, LCPC-c
she/her/hers
Clinical Psychology Doctoral Student
Email: marrigoni@msp.edu
Phone: 207-217-8308