

Jackson Barber-Just - Qualified Immunity Written Testimony

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I'm sure you're going to hear a lot of people say something like "In a tense situation, why are we expecting a regular person with no training to de escalate better than a police officer WITH training?"

They're right. A heat-of-the-moment choice can often result in the murder of an innocent person by police. Qualified immunity is a policy that's making police officers unafraid to make the choice to kill someone, and is preventing due process in a court. A cop shouldn't be the one who's making the choice whether to administer capital punishment or not. They aren't a judge, and they definitely aren't a jury of multiple people. In the vast majority of police brutality cases, the person wasn't doing something punishable by death, and more importantly, was trying to live their life. I am all for the investigation of qualified immunity in our commonwealth.