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Written Testimony On Senate Bill 241, An Act Concerning Boating Safety

Senator Cohen, Representative Gresko, Ranking Members Miner and Harding, and distinguished members of the Environment Committee.

My name is Jess Zaccagnino, and I am the policy counsel of the American Civil Liberties Union of Connecticut (ACLU-CT). I am submitting this testimony on Senate Bill 241, An Act Concerning Boating Safety.

The ACLU-CT is committed to ending police violence and racism in policing in all forms. Accountability measures alone are not enough. Connecticut must also divest from policing in favor of investing those funds into the programs, resources, and services that truly create stable, healthy, and safe communities. Connecticut must also work to limit the roles, responsibilities, and presence of police in marginalized communities.

The ACLU-CT firmly opposes increasing to police funding, and as a result must oppose Section 6 of Senate Bill 241. This part of the bill unnecessarily appropriates five million dollars to fund additional environmental conservation police officers in order to increase aquatic policing efforts. Accordingly, the ACLU-CT urges this Committee to strike Section 6 of Senate Bill 241 in favor of alternative solutions to policing.