

Block Format Sample Case: Qualified Immunity Affirmation

In 1961 a civil rights group known as CORE, organized the freedom riders. In one of the era's final acts of protest, they traveled the south in defiance of segregation. Upon reaching Jackson Mississippi, they encountered brutality, indignation, and imprisonment. In a later attempt to hold officers accountable, they sought judicial relief through the KKK Act, and this government's response was the birth of Qualified Immunity. That brings us to today, as America chants 'Say Their Name', seeking that same relief, the freedom riders fought for decades ago. We've continued to answer with silence.

Principally, pass today to reform police training in America

- [Natl. Conference of State Legislatures Aug 22, 2022](#) - Only 11 states require police to learn the various forms of de-escalation, meaning in the other 39, there are no accountability methods to ensure these techniques are taught.

Yet in half of the 8514, fatal police shootings, the subject of arrest did not possess a firearm. Unarmed in half of the shootings

We need accountability and today's legislation delivers it

- [The Institute of Justice Jan 23, 2022](#) - the removal of qualified immunity would raise liability to the point where departments would be forced to embrace de-escalation techniques

That's why...

- [Washington Post June 23, 2021 - When NYPD loss their qualified immunity it only took them 2 months to restructure training around de-escalation techniques](#)

The only question left in this debate is, 'Does de-escalation training work?'

Yes, First it protects officers

- American Psychological Association Oct 1, 2020 - the training that I mentioned earlier in Las Vegas reduced officer injuries by 11%
- DOJ Sept 6, 2022 - in Louisville reduced officer injuries by 36%

The best of us choose to serve and protect us, we must choose today to serve and protect them

Secondly, it protects the community

- That same APA report found that de-escalation training led to safer community interactions, in

- Las Vegas - Use of force dropped by **23%**
- In Louisville - by **26%**
- And in Seattle - by **40%**

Behind every statistic is a story, stop cutting them short.

Say their name. By passing we can **finally** require every department and this government to acknowledge them with action, **or** (pause) we choose Sen. _____ 's plan strike down this bill and give them the same response we've issued for generations.

THAT... silence.