

Bohannon is soft on criminals and hard on cops. She was one of just 12 legislators who voted to make it easier for sex offenders to get off the registry, and she still won't say why.

On February 17, 2021, Bohannon Was One Of Only 12 Iowa State House Members Who Voted To Make It Easier For Sex Offenders To Get Off The Sex Offender Registry.

On February 17, 2021, Bohannon Was One Of Only 12 Iowa State House Members Who Voted To Make It Easier For Sex Offenders To Get Off The Sex Offender Registry. (HF 489, Iowa Legislature, Passed House 84-12; [Bohannon Voted Nay](#), 2/17/21)

HF 489 Increased The Waiting Period Before A Sex Offender Can Ask A Court To Reduce Their Registry Requirements. “A period of time has elapsed since the date of the offender’s initial registration as follows: (1) (a) Except as otherwise provided in subparagraph division (b), a tier I offender initially registered at least ten years prior to the filing of the application. (b) A tier I offender who was under twenty years of age at the time the offender committed a violation of section 709.4, subsection 1, paragraph “b”, subparagraph (3), subparagraph division (d), initially registered at least five years prior to the filing of the application. (2) A tier II or tier III offender initially registered at least twenty-five years prior to the filing of the application.” (HF 489, Iowa Legislature, Passed House 84-12)

In 2021, Christina Bohannon Opposed “Back The Blue” Legislation In Iowa Intended To “Boost Support For Law Enforcement And Increase Punishments For Individuals Convicted Of Rioting”

In May 2021, The Iowa Senate Approved “Back The Blue” Legislation Intended To “Boost Support For Law Enforcement And Increase Punishments For Individuals Convicted Of Rioting.” “After another intense debate over police protections and racial equity, the Republican-led Iowa Senate on Monday approved legislation that would boost support for law enforcement and increase punishments for individuals convicted of rioting. The so-called ‘back the blue’ legislation would, among other things, shield law enforcement officers from some lawsuits in the form of qualified immunity. Senate File 342 also raises the penalty for rioting from an aggravated misdemeanor to a Class D felony.” (Erin Murphy, “Iowa Senate Passes ‘Back The Blue’ Bill,” [The Gazette](#), 5/17/21)

Senate File 342 Was Also Called The “Back The Blue” Bill. The Legislation Aimed To Boost Law Enforcement, Increased Punishment For People Convicted Of Rioting, And Made It Easier To Charge Protestors With Crimes. “Flanked by a roomful of uniformed law officers from around Iowa, Gov. Kim Reynolds on Thursday signed a ‘back the blue’ bill that boosts support and legal protections for law enforcement as well as increases punishments for people convicted of rioting and makes it easier to charge protesters with crimes. ‘Iowa’s law enforcement will always have my respect and I will always have their back,’ the governor told law officers and cadets at the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy before signing into law Senate File 342, a bill that will shield law enforcement officers from some lawsuits in the form of qualified immunity and raises the penalties for a host of criminal behaviors including rioting, criminal mischief, disorderly conduct, assault, harassment and eluding law officers or interfering with officers trying to control public order.” (Rod Boshart, “Iowa Governor Signs ‘Back The Blue’ Law To Raise Penalties For Rioting, Protect Officers,” [Police 1](#), 6/17/21)

According To Senate File 342, Assaulting Law Enforcement, Health Care Providers, Correctional Staff Or Emergency Personnel With Intent To Cause Serious Injury, Knowing Their Protected Status, Would Constitute A Class Felony. “1. A person who commits an assault, as defined in section 708.1, against a peace officer, jailer, correctional staff, member or employee of the board of parole, health care provider, employee of the department of human services, employee of the department of revenue, civilian employee of a law enforcement agency, civilian employee of a fire department, or fire fighter, whether paid or volunteer, with the knowledge that the person against whom the assault is committed is a peace officer, jailer, correctional staff, member or employee of the board of parole, health care provider, employee of the department of human services, employee of the department of revenue, civilian employee of a law enforcement agency, civilian employee of a fire department, or fire fighter and with the intent to

inflict a serious injury upon the peace officer, jailer, correctional staff, member or employee of the board of parole, health care provider, employee of the department of human services, employee of the department of revenue, civilian employee of a law enforcement agency, civilian employee of a fire department, or fire fighter, is guilty of a class felony.” (SF 342, [Iowa Legislature](#), Accessed 9/16/25) p. 23-24

According To The Bill, Assaulting Law Enforcement, Health Care Providers, Correctional Staff Or Emergency Personnel While Knowingly Using Or Displaying A Dangerous Weapon Would Be Guilty Of A Class Felony. “2. A person who commits an assault, as defined in section 708.1, against a peace officer, jailer, correctional staff, member or employee of the board of parole, health care provider, employee of the department of human services, employee of the department of revenue, civilian employee of a law enforcement agency, civilian employee of a fire department, or fire fighter, whether paid or volunteer, who knows that the person against whom the assault is committed is a peace officer, jailer, correctional staff, member or employee of the board of parole, health care provider, employee of the department of human services, employee of the department of revenue, civilian employee of a law enforcement agency, civilian employee of a fire department, or fire fighter and who uses or displays a dangerous weapon in connection with the assault, is guilty of a class felony.” (SF 342, [Iowa Legislature](#), Accessed 9/16/25) p. 24

According To The Bill, Assaulting Law Enforcement, Health Care Providers, Correctional Staff Or Emergency Personnel And Causing Bodily Injury Or Mental Illness Would Be Guilty Of An Aggravated Misdemeanor. “3. A person who commits an assault, as defined in section 708.1, against a peace officer, jailer, correctional staff, member or employee of the board of parole, health care provider, employee of the department of human services, employee of the department of revenue, civilian employee of a law enforcement agency, civilian employee of a fire department, or fire fighter, whether paid or volunteer, who knows that the person against whom the assault is committed is a peace officer, jailer, correctional staff, member or employee of the board of parole, health care provider, employee of the department of human services, employee of the department of revenue, civilian employee of a law enforcement agency, civilian employee of a fire department, or fire fighter, and who causes bodily injury or mental illness, is guilty of an aggravated misdemeanor.” (SF 342, [Iowa Legislature](#), Accessed 9/16/25) p. 24

According To The Bill, Any Other Assault Against Law Enforcement, Health Care Providers, Correctional Staff Or Emergency Personnel, Committed With Knowledge Of Their Status Would Be Classified As A Serious Misdemeanor. “4. Any other assault, as defined in section 708.1, committed against a peace officer, jailer, correctional staff, member or employee of the board of parole, health care provider, employee of the department of human services, employee of the department of revenue, civilian employee of a law enforcement agency, civilian employee of a fire department, or fire fighter, whether paid or volunteer, by a person who knows that the person against whom the assault is committed is a peace officer, jailer, correctional staff, member or employee of the board of parole, health care provider, employee of the department of human services, employee of the department of revenue, civilian employee of a law enforcement agency, civilian employee of a fire department, or fire fighter, is a serious misdemeanor.” (SF 342, [Iowa Legislature](#), Accessed 9/16/25) p. 24-25

“The Bill Also Protects Officers’ Personal Information And Allows Police To Seek Damages Against People Or Organizations Who Make False Complaints.” (Perry Beeman, “Senate Passes ‘Back The Blue’ Bill That Democrats Say Will Worsen Racial Disparity,” [Iowa Capital Dispatch](#), 5/17/21)

Senate File 342 Would Criminalize Protesters Obstructing Public Roadways And Increase Penalties For Rioting And Related Offenses Connected To The George Floyd Protests Such As Defacing And Destroying Monuments And Statues

Senate File 342 Made It A Crime Of Disorderly Conduct For Protesters To Obstruct Public Roadways. “Iowa’s law enforcement will always have my respect and I will always have their back,’ the governor told law officers and cadets at the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy before

signing into law Senate File 342, a bill that will shield law enforcement officers from some lawsuits in the form of qualified immunity and raises the penalties for a host of criminal behaviors including rioting, criminal mischief, disorderly conduct, assault, harassment and eluding law officers or interfering with officers trying to control public order. According to the nonpartisan Legislative Service Agency, the measure expands sick leave and workers' compensation rights for public safety employees. It also expands criminal mischief to include acts that damage or deface public property including monuments and statues; and makes it a crime of disorderly conduct for a protester to obstruct a public roadway.” (Rod Boshart, “Iowa Governor Signs ‘Back The Blue’ Law To Raise Penalties For Rioting, Protect Officers,” [Police 1](#), 6/17/21)

Senate File 342 Raised Penalties For Rioting And Other Crimes Associated With The George Floyd Riots. “Senate File 342 returns the House for consideration weeks after House Speaker Pat Grassley predicted back-and-forth between the chambers. The bill addresses some police benefits and provides qualified immunity to protect officers against lawsuits in some cases. It also raises penalties for rioting and other crimes associated with last year’s protests after the killing of George Floyd by a police officer in Minneapolis.” (Perry Beeman, “Senate Passes ‘Back The Blue’ Bill That Democrats Say Will Worsen Racial Disparity,” [Iowa Capital Dispatch](#), 5/17/21)

Senate File 342 Expanded Criminal Mischief To Include Damaging, Defacing Or Destroying Monuments And Statues. “Iowa’s law enforcement will always have my respect and I will always have their back,’ the governor told law officers and cadets at the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy before signing into law Senate File 342, a bill that will shield law enforcement officers from some lawsuits in the form of qualified immunity and raises the penalties for a host of criminal behaviors including rioting, criminal mischief, disorderly conduct, assault, harassment and eluding law officers or interfering with officers trying to control public order. According to the nonpartisan Legislative Service Agency, the measure expands sick leave and workers’ compensation rights for public safety employees. It also expands criminal mischief to include acts that damage or deface public property including monuments and statues; and makes it a crime of disorderly conduct for a protester to obstruct a public roadway.” (Rod Boshart, “Iowa Governor Signs ‘Back The Blue’ Law To Raise Penalties For Rioting, Protect Officers,” [Police 1](#), 6/17/21)

The Back The Blue Bill Granted Civil Immunity To Drivers Who Injured Someone Blocking Traffic During A Protest, Demonstration, Riot, Unlawful Assembly, Or Disorderly Conduct

Senate File 342 Granted Civil Immunity To Drivers Who, While Exercising Due Care, Injured Someone Blocking Traffic During A Protest, Demonstration, Riot, Unlawful Assembly, Or Disorderly Conduct. “Sec. 51. NEW SECTION. 321.366A Immunity from civil liability for certain vehicle operators. 1. The driver of a vehicle who is exercising due care and who injures another person who is participating in a protest, demonstration, riot, or unlawful assembly or who is engaging in disorderly conduct and is blocking traffic in a public street or highway shall be immune from civil liability for the injury caused by the driver of the vehicle.” (SF 342, [Iowa Legislature](#), Accessed 9/16/25) p. 29

- **Drivers Were Not Immune From Civil Liability If They Injure Someone Blocking Traffic During A Protest Or Similar Event Through Reckless Or Willful Misconduct.** “2. The driver of a vehicle who injures another person who is participating in a protest, demonstration, riot, or unlawful assembly or who is engaging in disorderly conduct and is blocking traffic in a public street or highway shall not be immune from civil liability if the actions leading to the injury caused by the driver of a vehicle constitute reckless or willful misconduct.” (SF 342, [Iowa Legislature](#), Accessed 9/16/25) p. 29-30
- **Drivers Were Not Immune From Civil Liability If The Injured Protester Was Lawfully Demonstrating With A Valid Permit At The Location Of The Incident.** “3. Subsection 1 shall not apply if the injured person participating in a protest or demonstration was

doing so with a valid permit allowing persons to protest or demonstrate on the public street or highway where the injury occurred.” (SF 342, [Iowa Legislature](#), Accessed 9/16/25) p. 30

Senate File 342, Which Democrats Said Disproportionately Affected Black Iowans, Was Signed Into Law By Gov. Reynolds In June 2021

On June 17, 2021, Gov. Reynolds Signed The Back The Blue Bill Into Law. “Flanked by a roomful of uniformed law officers from around Iowa, Gov. Kim Reynolds on Thursday signed a ‘back the blue’ bill that boosts support and legal protections for law enforcement as well as increases punishments for people convicted of rioting and makes it easier to charge protesters with crimes. ‘Iowa’s law enforcement will always have my respect and I will always have their back,’ the governor told law officers and cadets at the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy before signing into law Senate File 342, a bill that will shield law enforcement officers from some lawsuits in the form of qualified immunity and raises the penalties for a host of criminal behaviors including rioting, criminal mischief, disorderly conduct, assault, harassment and eluding law officers or interfering with officers trying to control public order.” (Rod Boshart, “Iowa Governor Signs ‘Back The Blue’ Law To Raise Penalties For Rioting, Protect Officers,” [Police 1](#), 6/17/21)

“Democrats Also Criticized The Bill Because Nonpartisan Analysts Expect Raising Penalties For Protest-Related Offenses Will Disproportionately Impact Black Iowans.”

(Katarina Sostaric, “Reynolds Signs Law Enhancing Penalties For Protest-Related Offenses, Expanding Police Protections,” [Iowa Public Radio](#), 6/17/21)

In April 2021, Bohannon Claimed Back The Blue Legislation Would “Make Us Both Less Free And Less Safe,” Describing It As Part Of A “Nationwide Effort To Crack Down On Protests...” “In response to racial justice protests last summer, Republicans in the Iowa Legislature have introduced bills that ramp up penalties on protest activity and limit local government discretion in dealing with protests and public safety issues. Iowa House Republicans have bundled into one bill, H-1345, multiple bills previously passed by the Iowa Senate (SF 476). The new ‘Back the Blue’ bill is broad, affecting everything from sick leave for public safety officers to punishments for riots and eluding police. Although some parts of this wide-ranging bill are fine, others are dangerous and disturbing. The bill will likely chill First Amendment speech and assembly, punish harmless activity, and escalate and immunize violence. In short, this bill will make us both less free and less safe. While the bill is targeted at protests in Iowa City and Des Moines following the murder of George Floyd last summer, it is not unique. Across the country, some 91 similar bills have been introduced into state legislatures, according to the International Center for Not-For-Profit Law. This is part of a concerted, nationwide effort to crack down on protests and to strip law enforcement and local government of any discretion to respond to them.” (Christina Bohannon, Janice Weiner, “Letter To The Editor: The State’s ‘Back The Blue’ Bills Will Make Us Less Free And Less Safe,” [Little Village](#), 4/12/21)

VIDEO: In April 2021, Bohannon Stated She Supported Law Enforcement But Would Vote Against SF 342, Saying That It Would Impact The Right To Protest And Would Force The Police And Protest Groups Like Black Lives Matter Into Conflict. BOHANNAN:

“I do support law enforcement. And I will be a no on this bill, because I also support other things including the right to protest for racial justice and for other issues. And I really think this bill unnecessarily pits law enforcement against groups like Black Lives Matter and other protestors, just at the time when we need to be bringing all of these groups together.” (“House Video (2021-04-14),” [The Iowa Legislature](#), 4/14/21) Minute 6:00:39-6:01:06

VIDEO: In April 2021, Bohannon Stated That She Was Opposed To SF 342 Due To It Strengthening Qualified Immunity. BOHANNAN: “The bill also does incorporate into our state law the federal law on qualified immunity. The qualified immunity doctrine is one of the most widely criticized doctrines in all of federal law. [...] The reason it's so criticized is because under the qualified immunity doctrine, no matter how egregious the misconduct is, no matter how wrong we all would agree that it is, there would be no liability unless it violates, quote, ‘clearly established law.’ So even if an officer uses clearly excessive force in violation of departmental policy, they are immune just

because there hasn't yet been a court case deciding that this exact conduct violates the law." ("House Video (2021-04-14)," [The Iowa Legislature](#), 4/14/21) Minute 6:02:48-6:03:02; 6:03:50-6:04:27

VIDEO: In April 2021, Bohannon Stated That SF 342's Measures Strengthening Qualified Immunity Would "Chill" First Amendment Rights Of Free Speech And Assembly. BOHANNAN: "But making law enforcement officers immune from clearly egregious misconduct is going to further undermine public trust in law enforcement, just at the time when we need to rebuild that trust. By ramping up penalties for vaguely defined crimes, this bill is likely to chill First Amendment rights of free speech and assembly. It subjects young people and others to serious harm. And it prevents law enforcement from exercising critical discretion on how to respond to fluid, quickly moving, and potentially dangerous situations." ("House Video (2021-04-14)," [The Iowa Legislature](#), 4/14/21) Minute 6:05:39-6:06:20

Bohannon Called "Many Parts" Of The Legislation "Extreme And Unnecessary" And Argued That "Existing State Laws Are More Than Adequate To Deal With Protests." "Many parts of the "Back the Blue" bill are extreme and unnecessary. Existing state laws are more than adequate to deal with protests. By ramping up penalties for vaguely defined crimes, this bill is likely to chill First Amendment rights of free speech and assembly. It also subjects young people and others to serious harm, and it prevents law enforcement from exercising critical discretion on how best to respond to fluid, quickly moving and potentially dangerous situations. A bill supposedly about law and order will ultimately deprive us of our rights under law and make our communities less safe." (Christina Bohannon, Janice Weiner, "Letter To The Editor: The State's 'Back The Blue' Bills Will Make Us Less Free And Less Safe," [Little Village](#), 4/12/21)