In response to the protests against police violence that have swept the country over the past three years, imagine that an elected representative in a state of your choice recently proposed legislation designed to reduce the use of force by police officers throughout the state. Among other things, the representative's bill would require the state Attorney General's office to establish a new statewide use-of-force database that will regularly collect and report systematic data about police use of force from all local law enforcement agencies (municipal police and county sheriffs) in the state. The bill aims to create a periodic "force report" that ranks police departments based on how often and in what circumstances their officers use force, reports the rate at which force is used against specific demographic groups, and identifies individual officers who use force especially often. This kind of routine and systematic reporting, the representative believes, will help local communities (activists, city councilors, mayors, etc) to hold their local police departments accountable and put pressure on the department for change. The state representative is inspired by similar ranking systems in other fields like medicine, where hospitals and individual doctors are ranked based on the safety and quality of patient care they provide—for example, based on the rate of medical errors in each hospital.

Write a memo evaluating the strengths and weaknesses of this proposal and discussing how it might be usefully fleshed out, modified, and/or situated in a broader strategy for police accountability and police reform. To what extent can regular collection and reporting of data about the level and distribution of use of force incidents help state and local officials, police leaders, and local community stakeholders oversee and control the use of force by police officers more effectively? What unintended consequences might this effort have, and how could a well-designed "force report" initiative guard against them? What other tools might the representative consider to oversee and control the use of force by local police throughout the state?

General ground rules
- The memo should be 3 pages long, double-spaced, with a type size comparable to 12 point Times New Roman, and one-inch margins all around.
- Turn in the memo by 11:59 PM on **Friday, September 22** by uploading it on Canvas.
- You do not need to follow the same memo format you use in other classes (such as 510). Organize your memo in whatever way allows you to address the questions posed most successfully.
- Grammar, punctuation, word choice, spelling, and clarity matter. Dramatic flair is not important, but clear, concise, organized prose is.
- As in all university classes, use proper citation in all your written work. If you have any questions about what plagiarism is (in brief: acknowledge all your sources and enclose all words that aren't yours in quotation marks), see http://www.lib.umich.edu/academic-integrity. Please ask Ally or me if you have questions about what's appropriate. As you embark on a career in public service, it's important to learn to avoid using sources in a way that others will view as plagiarism. You may use any reference style you prefer.
- I encourage you to take advantage of the excellent resources available at the Ford School Writing Center: https://fordschool.umich.edu/intranet/writing-center.