

Testimony of Frank Cuccaro Vice President of the Bridgeport Police Union Local 1159  
To the Members of the Labor and Public Employees Committee

To: Senate and House of Representatives  
From: P/O Frank Cuccaro  
Bridgeport police union local 1159  
Regarding: Bill 6956  
Date: February 8, 2007

Dear Representatives,

I am writing to you regarding the raised bill 6956. I have been a police officer in Bridgeport for 14 years. I have seen many officers over the years accidentally get stuck with hypodermic needles while patting down a suspect. When this occurs, an officer has to go through a series of shots over the next few months. They also have to agonize with the idea that they may have been infected with H.I.V. and may not find out for years to come. I can't imagine what goes through your mind when you get stuck with a "dirty" needle.

You have to worry about hepatitis, H.I.V., and numerous other diseases that you may contract. With hipa laws in place, We, the affected officer can't even find out from the hospital if the suspect has aids or not.

If an officer/ any emergency worker for that matter, were to get stuck by a "dirty" needle, we should have the right to know if that person "using" the needle has H.I.V./aids. At least if you know what you are up against, you don't have to sit and wonder: Am I goanna get aids? It is hard to fully understand the agony of the unknown unless you have been in this situation. I have seen it to many times and I would appreciate your help in seeing that no emergency worker ever has to go through this pain again.

I thank you for the opportunity to address you. Any help in this matter would be greatly appreciated.

Respectfully Submitted,

P/O Frank Cuccaro  
Vice President  
B.P:T. Police local 1159