

Good morning members of this committee. My name is Mary Maurice and I wish to speak with you this morning in reference to bill number 295, "Providing Peace Officer Status to Certain Inspectors in the Department of Motor Vehicles".

My comments to you this morning will be brief.

Today, you've heard testimony from Inspectors and their families about Inspectors being trained, their qualifications and how much they deserve the protection this bill provides. I'm not going to reiterate what has already been said, but would like to express my views on the subject.

I have a unique situation, unlike most others here. My husband is a 22 year veteran in the Department of Motor Vehicles, while my son is a Connecticut State Trooper. I find it amazingly interesting that our dinner conversations always evolve into related police activity, mostly involving motor vehicle stops. The comparison between the jobs that my husband does and that my son does is so similar, that a stranger listening would certainly believe that they do the same job. *In fact, they do.* My son spends the majority of his shift doing patrol work, mostly on the interstate highway system, enforcing the traffic laws of this State. My husband does the same. The biggest difference is that most of my husband's traffic stops involve those trucks that most people love to hate. In many cases, the truck that my husband stops creates an even greater degree of hazard, due to the vehicle's mammoth size and with the ever-mobile society we live in, trucks have become a favored place for criminals to hide from authorities.

The State and Inspectors need this change for all of the reasons you've heard today, but most selfishly, I have to ask you why my husband, but equally (and perhaps more) important, my daughter and I are not provided the same protections and benefits as someone else doing the same job? In good conscience can you allow that a k-9 in police work has more value and better job protection than a human being? If you were an employer, wouldn't you take advantage of an additional protection for your employees, especially if the benefit was at no cost to you?

I urge you to investigate the duties of a Motor Vehicle Inspector and compare those to other police officers and other non-police employees who are already granted this status, then make an honest decision concerning this bill.

Please support S.B No. 295.

Thank you.

Mary M. Maurice  
325 Central Ave  
Wolcott, CT 06716