



Fraternal Order of Police Connecticut State Lodge



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Michael P. Lawlor
Co-Chairman Joint Committee on Judicial
Room 2500, Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT 06106

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I am writing on behalf of the members of the Connecticut State Lodge of the Fraternal Order of Police to share with you a letter from our National President Chuck Canterbury to the former U.S. Attorney General, Michael B. Mukasey, regarding the FOP's concern about "firearms microstamping."

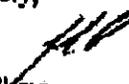
The proponents of this new technology are pushing legislation, S.B. 353, which would require all semiautomatic pistols sold in Connecticut to employ microstamping—a patented, sole-sourced technology that uses a microlaser to engrave the make, model and serial number of the firearm on the tip of the firing pin. As our National President makes clear in his letter, the utility of this new technology is suspect at best.

While the legislation was billed as a tool to help "catch criminals," the truth is that in most cases the technology will not be helpful to criminal investigators. As a law enforcement officer here in Connecticut, I welcome any new technology that will assist in the capture and successful prosecution of criminals—especially those that use firearms. I am simply not convinced that every firearms crime, or even a significant portion of them, will be solved by running a number through a database.

In light of the limited use of this technology for fighting crime, I would like to urge you, on behalf of the more than 1300 members of the Connecticut FOP, to delay implementation of the law until such time as the Federal government has conducted an in-depth study of microstamping technology to evaluate its investigatory value.

Thank you, as always, for taking the views of the Fraternal Order of Police into consideration. If you need any additional information on this issue, please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

Sincerely,


John Flynn
President
Connecticut State Lodge, Fraternal Order of Police