



# CONNECTICUT POLICE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

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## Testimony to the Judiciary Committee

March 16, 2009

Chief Anthony Salvatore & Chief James Strillacci, Connecticut Police Chiefs Association

We support **SB #358, AAC Prohibiting Transfer of Assault Weapons or Machine Guns to Minors**. October's death of an 8-year-old Ashford boy who was allowed to fire a mini-Uzi dispelled any hope that common sense could fill a gap in the law which allows children to play with machine guns.

Moreover, Connecticut has passed a "Raise the Age" law which considers those under 18 to be juveniles. The law deems them too immature be tried in adult court. If they're too young to understand their rights or to give a statement without a parent present, they're certainly too young to handle assault weapons. We approve of this bill.

We support **HB #6025, AA Increasing the Penalty for Engaging Police in Pursuit**. Since 1999, each Connecticut police department has had a policy on pursuits. But police policies only control the officers, not the motorist. It's the violator who decides whether to flee, and some still choose to run, sometimes even after they're no longer being pursued.

It's a dangerous choice. According to a Legislative Research report\*, there were over 286 chases in 2006-2007, resulting in at least 34 injuries and thousands of dollars in damage. This bill will make this potentially deadly activity a felony. We think it is entirely appropriate.

We are concerned about what appears to be a training mandate in **HB #6671, AAC Forfeiture of Money and Property Relating to Child Sexual Exploitation and Human Trafficking**. The Connecticut Chiefs believe that the Police Officer Standards and Training Council should be allowed to perform its statutory duty of determining the type and amount of training necessary for police officers.

CGS 7-294f now requires a course on rape crisis intervention in every basic and review training program. Section 3 of the bill adds "sexual assault investigation" to this course. We are uncertain whether this is intended to add another required subject, or to expand the possible subject matter of the current requirement. We would prefer the latter.

\*OLR 2009-R-0025, Feb. 6, 2009