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**Testimony to the Committee on Public Safety and Security
Submitted February 24, 2009 by
Chief Anthony J. Salvatore and Chief James Strillacci
Legislative Co-Chairs
Connecticut Police Chiefs Association**

Members of the Committee on Public Safety and Security, we represent the Connecticut Police Chiefs Association (CPCA), and oppose **RB 6456, AN ACT CONCERNING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A STATE-WIDE AUTO THEFT TASK FORCE.**

We are opposed to this Bill because we believe that to establish by state statute a succession of new task forces to deal with each crime that captures the public's attention is short-sighted, unproductive, and unnecessary.

Crime trends may develop rapidly. A concerted effort to address one should not have to wait for legislative approval of a new task force.

Fortunately, existing statutes allow cooperation for specific reasons among municipal, state, and federal law enforcement agencies. These include CGS 7-148cc, **Joint Performance of Municipal Functions**, and CGS 7-339a **Interlocal agreements**. A recent task force to combat home invasions is an example of such a joint effort.

We would prefer to see amendment of CGS 54-1f to extend statewide arrest powers to municipal police officers, as this would facilitate participation in investigations which transcend town lines.

This bill makes no provision for stipends to encourage local police departments to assign officers to the task force. This bill has no provision for a policy board to guide its operation. Past task-force bills have included such wise provisions.

Although we oppose this bill, we do appreciate that the statement of purpose includes indemnification of municipal employees serving on any such task force. We suggest that this could be accomplished by simply adding indemnification language to C.G.S. 29-10, **Commissioner May Delegate Authority**.

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