

Good Afternoon, Senator Harp and Representative Geragosian, and Distinguished Members of the Appropriations Committee.

My name is Sergeant Michael Collins, and I am a Resident State Trooper Supervisor in the Town of Montville. I appreciate the opportunity to speak before you today. I am here to speak in **OPPOSITION** of Section 29-5 of the General Statutes contained within:

**GOVERNOR'S BILL NO. # 6363**

AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE GOVERNOR'S BUDGET RECCOMENDATIONS CONCERNING GENERAL GOVERNMENT, CONSERVATION, DEVELOPMENT, REGULATION, PROTECTION, JUDICIAL AND CORRECTIONS.

Many years before the concept of community policing swept across the United States, the Connecticut State Police Department already had a program in effect with regard to community policing. That program is called the Resident State Trooper program.

I'm concerned that under this bill, much of the success we made, in the area of community policing will be lost. Resident Troopers throughout the state are responsible for many successful programs such as the Neighborhood Watch program, the DARE program, bike and pistol safety awareness, the Explorer program, and other individual programs implemented by other Resident Troopers. We work closely within the community and have built a relationship with elected officials and the citizens of the towns. Because these relationships have been effectively developed and fostered, the needs of each town are individually addressed and resolved.

In today's society, law enforcement is dealing with new crimes such as identify theft, computer crime. These crimes cannot be solved overnight and the Resident Trooper program has afforded the troopers in those positions the time to put forth the effort to solve those crimes. The Resident Trooper program has been a long standing tradition in the State of Connecticut. I feel that this section of the bill could jeopardize the program throughout the state and force towns to make a financial decision to no longer participate in this long standing effective program.

In closing, I appreciate the opportunity to speak before you today, and I am available to answer any questions you may have.

SGT Michael Collins