



INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF POLICE OFFICERS

A DIVISION OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES, AFL/CIO

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March 26, 2010

Joint Committee on Judiciary
State of Connecticut General Assembly
Legislative Office Building, Room 2500
300 Capital Avenue
Hartford, CT 06106-1591

RE: Raised H.B. No. 5526

Dear Committee Members:

On behalf of the International Brotherhood of Police Officers, Local 731, I would like to express strong support for Raised H.B. No. 5526. IBPO Local 731 represents approximately 700 Judicial Marshals and Lead Judicial Marshals – the very people who would benefit most from this legislation.

The Judicial Marshals would like to thank this Committee for raising the issues in this bill. Discussion about the hiring and promotion of Connecticut Judicial Marshals can be heard regularly both inside and outside our courthouses. The methodology used by the Judicial Branch in the hiring and promotion of Judicial Marshals is outside the scope of the collective bargaining process and as such, the Judicial Marshals and Union rarely have the opportunity to address or discuss the process and practice.

The Union's commentary in this letter should not be taken as a critique of the hiring practices and standards used by the Judicial Branch to date. Local 731 members are proud of the work they do, and would be hard pressed to criticize the process that gave them their jobs. It is crucial, however, that a greater understanding of hiring and promotional standards be provided to everyone affected by the security of Connecticut courthouses.

As you are all likely aware, the number of Judicial Marshals ensuring this security is dangerously low. This shortfall puts court employees, Judicial Marshals, and the public at large in increased danger. Now, more than ever, we need to see the standards used to bring new Judicial Marshals onboard, as well as standards to promote those already in uniform. Judicial Marshals are entirely reliant on the skills and competence of their peers,

and even more so of the supervisory staff directing their actions. Knowledge of the standards used to put those people in place will help Local 731 members perform their jobs with greater confidence.

Simply put, the Judicial Branch needs publicly available accessible employment and training standards for such crucial jobs. At a bare minimum, this information will help those interested in applying for Judicial Marshal position. Clearly discernable standards will help current Marshals understand what is expected of them to climb the promotional ladder while assuring that only the most qualified Judicial Marshals move forward. Perhaps most importantly, such information will help members of the public entitled to the security provided by Judicial Marshals, Lead Judicial Marshals, Supervisory Judicial Marshals, and Deputy Chief and Chief Judicial Marshals.

Thank you very much for your consideration of Raised H.B. No. 5526. Please feel free to contact the IBPO Connecticut Office at (860) 632-9832 with any follow-up questions, concerns, or comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Scott". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Scott Jelescheff, Esq.
IBPO Regional Counsel