



## INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF POLICE OFFICERS

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

346 Main Street  
Cromwell, CT 06416

telephone: 860-632-9832  
fax: 860-635-1358  
www.lbpo.org



JUDICIARY COMMITTEE PUBLIC HEARING: FEBRUARY 26, 2010

PLEASE SUPPORT H.B. 5148: AN ACT CONCERNING FUNDING FOR THE  
JUDICIAL BRANCH

Good afternoon, members of the Judiciary Committee. My name is Scott Telescheff and I am a staff attorney for the International Brotherhood of Police Officers Local 731, which represents Judicial Marshals, Lead Judicial Marshals, and Judicial Security Officers. I'm here to discuss House Bill 5148, an Act concerning funding for the Judicial Branch. With me are Union President Joe Gaetano, who works in the Hartford District and Lead Judicial Marshal Carlos Cardona, who works in the New Haven District. These are the two busiest districts in the State. Marshals Gaetano and Cardona, along with the rest of Local 731, provide the first line of defense in Judicial security.

The Union would very much like to work with the Judicial Branch and establish minimum staffing levels for Judicial Marshals – something that can only happen with the right funding. The Judicial Branch and Union both agree about the need for funding. Judge Quinn noted in her testimony last month before this committee that the number of Marshals currently in place falls far short of 920 – the number necessary to ensure Judicial Branch safety. Judge Damiani recently spoke about the dangerous conditions in his New Haven courtroom due to inadequate Marshal staffing.

Marshals Gaetano and Cardona can tell you about the Judicial Branch having to compromise its own rules and policies because of inadequate security. We've got Defendants and victims staring across the lobby at one another, with one Marshal to monitor them while screening incoming patrons. We've got just one Marshal in a courtroom that requires two – one for administrative functions and the other to maintain safety and order. We've got understaffed lockup facilities, and at times, just one Marshal to escort dangerous prisoners through a busy facility. Marshals Gaetano and Cardona are here to address any specific questions you may have about Judicial security.

Safety of judges, Marshals, other Branch employees, and the general public is compromised. Fewer courtrooms can operate, docket backlogs grow longer, and the wheels of justice turn even slower. Any discussion about funding for other Judicial departments is moot without an adequate number of Marshals on the job.

Members of the Committee – IBPO Local 731 asks that you support House Bill 5148 and help provide for an increase in very necessary security, and we encourage any questions or comments about the Judicial Marshal shortfall.