

**OPPOSITION TO SENATE BILL 1094
OPPOSITION TO SENATE BILL 1206**

**TESTIMONY OF ERIC BROWN
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CONNECTICUT COUNCIL OF POLICE UNIONS
AFSCME, COUNCIL 15**

**BEFORE THE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE OF
THE CONNECTICUT GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

MARCH 23, 2011

Ladies and Gentlemen of the Committee, my name is Eric Brown and I am staff counsel and lobbyist with AFSCME Council 15, a labor union representing the interests of more than 4000 police officers in 62 municipal communities throughout Connecticut.

I am here today to speak regarding the following bills before this Committee:

SENATE BILL 1094 - AN ACT BANNING LARGE CAPACITY AMMUNITION MAGAZINES. – Section 1(d)(1) of this bill exempts police officers from the application of the bill. However, we have many police officers who have retired from the job in good standing, or who will retire in good standing, who, upon retirement, will be required to comply with this statute if passed. We proposed that retired police officers, who retire in good standing from their employing agencies, be covered by the exemption provision of Section 1(d)(1).

SENATE BILL 1206 - AN ACT CONCERNING THE RECORDING OF POLICE ACTIVITY BY THE PUBLIC – This bill is designed to allow citizens to play a game of gotcha' with police officers. We ask our police officers to do a dangerous job, and to deal with the worst members of our society on a daily basis. And we have an expectation that they will perform with a superhuman capacity. But our police officers are merely human, and they behave in human ways when they are asked to perform their duties. To encourage members of the public, frequently the members who are the subjects of the police's attention regarding criminal activity, to videotape police officers in the hopes that a mistake may be made, or a human indiscretion may occur is shameful, and it should not be contemplated by our legislature. We ask our police to stop criminals, frequently by any legal force or means necessary. We cannot have them do their jobs, and at the same time have them looking over their shoulders every time they make split-second decisions in the public interest. When police officers second-guess themselves, they get hurt, and the public safety is placed in jeopardy. We need to honor our police officers, not treat them with contempt. This bill implies contempt for all police officers. This is a bad bill which shows a blatant distrust of our police officers, and a lack of recognition for the jobs they do, and it should die here in this committee.