TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF

HOUSE BILL 6329

TESTIMONY OF ERIC BROWN
STAFF ATTORNEY and LOBBYIST
CONNECTICUT COUNCIL OF POLICE UNIONS
AFSCME, COUNCIL 15

BEFORE THE LABOR AND PUBLIC EMPLOYEES COMMITTEE, OF THE CONNECTICUT GENERAL ASSEMBLY

FEBRUARY 17, 2011

Ladies and Gentlemen of the Committees, my name is Eric Brown, and I am an attorney 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 in support of House Bill 6329 – An Act Concerning The Maintenance of Health Insurance for Spouses and Dependents of Certain Deceased Police Officers and Firefighters who Have Died in the Performance of their Duties.

Currently there is no guarantee that the dependants of a deceased public safety officer who died in the line of duty will receive health insurance after the officer's death. There is no statutory requirement, except in the MEHIP act, however, that only applies to participating MEHIP members.

Those officers who make the ultimate sacrifice in service to their community leave behind a mountain of heartache and sorrow. There is no reason to compound the loss by leaving dependants without health care.

Passage of this bill is the right thing to do for those officers who die in the line of duty. It is necessary to ensure that those left behind can continue to receive health benefits in line with what they have come to expect.