

TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO

HOUSE BILL 5491

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

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC SAFETY AND SECURITY, OF
THE CONNECTICUT GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

FEBRUARY 22, 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 opposition to **House Bill 5491 – AN ACT CONCERNING THE POWERS OF CERTAIN UNITED STATES SECRET SERVICE AGENTS AND OFFICERS.**

Section 5 of this bill, will give Secret Service agents the power to serve search and arrest warrants throughout the state of Connecticut for financial crimes. This provision has the potential to usurp local police power and remove local and state police officers from their law enforcement duties within their jurisdictions. While certainly the Secret Service should be given the opportunity to perform its statutory functions in this state, they should be performed in conjunction with and coordination with local police departments in order to ensure the public safety.