



Douglas S. Fuchs,
Chief of Police

The Redding Police Department

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**Testimony of
Douglas S. Fuchs
President-Elect, Connecticut Police Chiefs Association
Chief of Police, Town of Redding**

**Before the
State of Connecticut
Public Safety and Security Committee
Regarding GB No. 1016 and 1017**

Good afternoon. My name is Chief Douglas Fuchs. I am the Chief of Police in the Town of Redding and am the President-Elect of the Connecticut Police Chiefs Association. I also sit on the CTIC (Connecticut Intelligence Center) Executive Board and am the Emergency Management Director for the Town of Redding.

I am here today neither in support of in opposition to the proposed mergers of the Department of Public Safety and the Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security along with the mergers of the Police and Fire Academies as none of us have had the opportunity to review any operational plans or organizational charts related thereto.

I am here to request that prior to taking any such action, or making any such merger that a commission or body be established to evaluate the efficacy thereof. I would suggest that this commission be comprised of representative of: The Connecticut Police Chiefs Association, the Connecticut Fire Chiefs Association(s), The Connecticut Emergency Managers Association, the Department of Public Safety and the Department of Emergency Management and Homeland Security.

This commission's task will be to review the current operations of those departments in question, review the efficacy of the currently proposed planned merger(s), as well as review potential alternatives and prepare a report which outlines the commission's findings and recommendations. Then, and only then, will anyone be in a position to determine what, if any, mergers should/could take place.

While we certainly applaud the effort(s) to seek ways to streamline government, I would suggest that any monumental change, such as has been proposed, should only be considered after a thorough and proper study. There is just no way, given the fact that today is February 22nd, that any such comprehensive study has taken place.

I thank the Chair for the opportunity to speak and would be happy to discuss these proposals further.

Respectfully Submitted,

Douglas S. Fuchs
Chief of Police