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Thank you for your time this morning. My name is Officer Jason Hyland of the University of Connecticut Police Department. I have been a police officer at our flagship university for 10 years and served the University of Arizona community as an officer for 2 and a half years prior to that. In my career as a law enforcement officer I have come to realize that while our communities have certain specialized needs from its officers, our duties as sworn law enforcement personnel are the same as any other certified officer within the state, be they state, local, or special police officers.

Twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week the brave men and women of the university police departments in Connecticut apply their specialized POST training to protect their communities, respond to emergency calls for service, investigate crimes, enforce state laws, safeguard state assets, and provide an invaluable sense of security to the patrons of higher education in Connecticut.

Police officers are required to make split second decisions in highly dynamic situations each and every day they don the uniform. The choices that officers make in the course of their duties significantly impact the lives of the communities they serve as well as the lives and well being of the officer's own families. In the modern age of constant scrutiny of governmental actions police officers are the front line of governmental presence in the lives of the citizenry. We expect each and every choice we make to be assessed for its legality and professionalism and we report to work each day with the understanding that the communities we serve will indemnify us from liability when our conduct meets the extensive training we receive at the academy, during field training, and in our continuing annual training sessions. Recent developments have called into question the status of that indemnification and I have personally had many officers express to me grave concern over the status of current statutes that do not specifically include university police officers within the protection of that legal protection. This concern is why we are here today asking for your assistance in protecting those men and women who have chosen to live their lives protecting the state of Connecticut.

University communities, while thankfully not as rife with horrifically violent crime as certain jurisdictions have a unique and emerging trend of violence that force officers to make those split-second decisions amidst chaos. From fights to armed robbery, from armed assaults to homicides, university campuses are rapidly becoming communities where police officers are often required to professionally apply their training and experience in manners that come under later scrutiny by the media, the administration, and the courts. The last thing any community needs are sworn police officers who are hesitant to act for fear of losing their homes, their assets, and their futures. Officers need to know that they are personally

protected when the choices they make under the color of law are later found to be within the bounds of statute and professional standards.

I would call your attention to just a few of the horrific events on university campuses in recent history. Recent mass shootings at the University of Arizona in 2002, Virginia Tech in 2007, Northern Illinois University in 2008, the University of Alabama in 2010, and the University of Texas in 2010 are stark examples of the dynamic and terrible scenarios that emerge in our communities that require police officers to respond, place themselves in harm's way, and make those split-second decisions that require indemnification.

University communities are typically filled with people between the ages of 17 and 25. This age group is typically where many mental health issues emerge. University campuses have long been known to be places where our youth experiment with illicit drugs as well as unlawfully used prescription drugs. Campuses are, for many youth, the first time away from direct parental supervision. These factors, amongst others, contribute to making our institutions of higher education particularly vulnerable to violence and crime that require immediate police involvement. We are proud to serve these communities and gladly act at a moment's notice to safeguard our nation's youth. We simply ask that you include us in the legal protections that other sworn police officers have to enable them to confidently discharge their duties.

Thank you again.