



CONNECTICUT POLICE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

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Testimony presented to the Joint Committee on Judiciary

Chief Anthony Salvatore and Chief Matthew Reed for the Connecticut Police Chiefs Association

The Connecticut Police Chiefs Association (CPCA) represents all municipal police departments in Connecticut as well as police departments at private and state universities.

Testimony regarding H.B. 5501, AAC Eyewitness Identification Procedures.

CPCA SUPPORTS the findings of the Eyewitness Identification Task Force and agrees that the methods utilized by police to establish the identity of an offender must conform with scientifically recognized and beneficial procedures used by law enforcement entities throughout the country.

CPCA questions whether the codification in statute of this or any other law enforcement procedure is in the best interest of the State, crime victims or the police. There are numerous, well established protections already in place that ensure that a suspect's rights are protected.

Instead, CPCA would rather the proposed statute codify the State's mandate that law enforcement discontinue the use of simultaneous array procedures and instead adopt the use of sequential eyewitness identification procedures. The statute should mandate that the Police Officer Standards and Training Council (POSTC) promulgate regulations and a model policy and procedure for the conduct of eyewitness identification in accordance with the findings of the Eyewitness Identification Task Force.

Our research failed to reveal any other state that has codified the step by step procedure as this proposed bill does. Instead, those state legislatures who have addressed the issue have mandated that their police oversight agency and police agencies in their state adopt appropriate policies instituting the sequential identification procedure.

It is CPCA's opinion that by codifying in statute the specific, detailed procedure police must follow, the ability to modify the procedure to conform to evolving trends in eyewitness identification will be stymied and bind any future modifications to the legislative process.