



# CONNECTICUT POLICE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

1800 Silas Deane Highway-Rear Bldg., Rocky Hill, Connecticut 06070

(860) 324-5726 (860) 324-6285 Fax: (860) 529-4265

Web site: [www.cpcanet.org](http://www.cpcanet.org)

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## Testimony presented to the Joint Committee on Judiciary

Chief Anthony Salvatore, 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.

**CPCA SUPPORTS S.B. 364, AAC Traffic Stop Information.** Connecticut's police chiefs have long sought to ensure that we protect all citizens equally and that all of our enforcement efforts are conducted based on a person's actions and not based upon an alleged offender's race, ethnicity or gender.

The collection of data in accordance with the existing statute and the proposed amendments are a first step in recording the activity of our state's law enforcement personnel. However, the collected data must then be analyzed in accordance with scientifically recognized methods in order that an accurate record of our officer's actions can be reported.

Since the passage of this Act in 1999 only one formal evaluation of the collected data was conducted. That evaluation by Central Connecticut State University in 2001 was met with controversy after the study concluded no widespread profiling was occurring.

The evaluation of such statistics is not a simple task and the conclusions drawn after a non-scientific, casual review of the data tend to be largely subjective, inaccurate and inflammatory.

Connecticut should research and implement a proven methodology for the collection, review and reporting of traffic stop data so that accurate reports can be drafted on a periodic basis. Such reports can then be used by law enforcement leaders throughout the state to track and identify trends in traffic stop and enforcement actions.

Connecticut law enforcement is frustrated as they are being held to a standard that has not been defined. At what ratio are police expected to stop and take enforcement action against a person in regards to the race, ethnicity and gender of that person? Should traffic stops and enforcement action be distributed equally amongst the protected classes or should the rate reflect the demographics in a specific municipality, a region, or the state?

While CPCA supports the collection of traffic stop data, we implore state officials to develop a more systematic and scientific method for analyzing and reporting the data.

END