

GOOD DAY TO EVERYONE IN THIS ROOM, My name is GREGG MARCHAND FROM WILLIMANTIS, CT.

I am here to voice my opinion on S.B. No. 149 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING THE DENIAL OF UNEMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION BENEFITS TO CERTAIN DRIVERS WHO ARE UNEMPLOYED AS A RESULT OF A DRUG OR ALCOHOL TEST. How do you define certain drivers??

**Should also include AN ACT REQUIRING ALCOHOL AND DRUG TESTING OF POLICE OFFICERS. INCLUDING FOR THE ANABOLIC STEROID USE. To protect the public by ensuring that all police officers are alcohol and drug free. JUST AS ANY OTHER PUBLIC SERVICE DRIVER.** Under the High Risk Safety Sensitive Occupation Clause of random drug testing of employees

I found that the laws do not specifically exclude police, which to me means they should be included. For the following reasons; and must take precedence. Some may be taking Anabolic steroids to muscle themselves up. This steroid is a most dangerous drug. When the person/s consumes it, their adrenaline flow makes the person mean, almost vicious. As a tax paying citizen I believe it borders being corrupt and undermines Public Safety and the High Risk Safety Sensitive Occupation rule. Police should partake in these random tests for the reasons I mentioned prior. Drivers that are obligated for the random drug test do not have all of the powers, responsibilities and other obligations police have, they are just drivers. Is this a double standard? Are we not equal in the eyes of the law? And when it becomes law, unions cannot supersede the law.

From the National Institute of Health; Research shows that abuse of anabolic steroids may lead to aggression and other adverse effects. For example, many users report feeling good about themselves while on anabolic steroids, but extreme mood swings can also occur, including manic-like symptoms that could lead to violence. Researchers have also observed that users may suffer from paranoid jealousy, extreme irritability, delusions, and impaired judgment stemming from feelings of invincibility. Obviously this would be a public safety hazard. I wouldn't want a peace officer in this state of mind. Would you?

Here's more reasons why police should be tested are;

- 1) Anyone that drives for public service gets randomly tested. Police are Public Service besides being on duty 24 hours a day plus many work double shifts.
- 2 They must be alert at all times during to what could be a dangerous job.).
- 3) They carry guns
- 4) They have power of arrest while upholding the law.
- 5) They have the option to drive faster its part of the job at times.
- 6) They drive for the state or town therefore must partake in random drug testing just as the other people that drive for the state or town.

I testified this idea in 2005 and I cannot for the life of me figure out why it did not become a law.

People that have a random drug test, if they were on drugs they would not take the test. Maybe police are taking drugs including steroids and the Public Safety Committee is afraid they will lose too many police? Many Connecticut citizens think it is very possible police are on drugs that is why they are not being tested. When police get randomly tested for drugs including for the Anabolic steroid and have a positive result this will make them a possible guilt for D.U.I., too.

You being the Labor and Employee Committee representatives and the voice for the people, of the people I would expect you to do what is right for our publics' safety and trust. Protect us and the police from this loop hole. After all the random drug testing for High Risk Safety Sensitive Occupations came from this committee. And everyone knows police are under this high risk category.

Many, including myself find it hypercritical that police are not randomly tested for drugs, including for Anabolic steroids. Most drivers that drive for the state or for any town gets randomly drug tested. State police may get drug tested under the 'Reasonable Suspicion' clause. This never happens. When a trooper gets in an auto accident is that a Reasonable Suspicion circumstance? Any other driver that drives for a state or town entity gets drug tested immediately after an auto accident.

This makes police above the law. As Abraham Lincoln said "no man is above the law."

There are many other adverse effects on a person's health do to the abuse of the Anabolic Steroid some are irreversible health problems bringing major money issues, such as nonstop medical attention from which insurance companies pay for which the money is coming from taxes that citizen's pay for.

Again, random drug testing for police must become law for the publics' safety and trust.

Lawmakers are worried about a pitcher on a Professional baseball team for taking steroids yet they do not worry the possibility of our Public Safety's taking the steroid.

I would also add your committee stated last session and recently, this is a federal issue it cannot be changed at the state level I found that to be false

There is no logical reason for police to be excluded from random drug testing especially under the High Risk Safety Sensitive Occupation law.

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