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## CONNECTICUT STATE POLICE UNION

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Good morning, Senator Fonfara, Representative Rowe, Senator Kissel, Representative Mushinsky and distinguished members of the Program Review and Investigations Committee.

My name is Andrew Matthews. I am the President of the Connecticut State Police Union and a Sergeant within the Connecticut State Police. The State Police Union represents approximately 1,098 State Troopers, Sergeants and Master Sergeants. We appreciate the opportunity to speak before you and recognize that we would not be here today without your unwavering support in the past for public safety and Trooper safety.

Section 243 of Public Act 12-1 requires Program Review and Investigations to conduct this study on state police staffing standards. The same section DELETES the statutory minimum number of 1,248 sworn state police personnel the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection Commissioner "shall appoint and maintain," replacing the number with the phrase "sufficient number of." Program Review and Investigations has clearly established the areas of analysis that will be used in helping determine what the "sufficient number" of sworn state police should be.

From a historical prospective, the minimum staffing level of state police personnel was statutorily mandated at 1,248, as a result of a murder that took place in Chaplin, Connecticut in 1998. In February 2009, the total number of sworn personnel was 1,283. Today, that number is 1,098. It is steadily declining and is dangerously low, which jeopardizes both public safety and trooper safety. What is the most accurate number? That's the difficult question. The Connecticut State Police Union welcomes this review and supports the areas of analysis that Program Review and Investigations is looking into. We feel confident that the new number will be based upon an objective analysis of information supported by appropriate data.

In addition to the areas of analysis currently being conducted by Program Review and Investigations, the Connecticut State Police Union believes that they should identify those state police personnel who perform "uniform services." Most of the uniformed troopers are assigned to a Troop. Currently, the State Police staff eleven (11) Troops statewide. Each troop is unique in itself, however they fundamentally perform similar police services and each has their own individual staffing level. The study should identify each Troop and determine what police services are needed to best serve their troop community. The police services for those assigned to a highway troop (Bridgeport) are different than those assigned a rural troop (North Canaan). Once determined, other factors need to be identified, such as: population (transient or permanent), geographical size, density, type of roadways, crime statistics, motor vehicle accident data and other offenses. Each troop should be required to identify areas of concern within their troop and develop comprehensive programs to address and solve community



problems. An annual staffing study should be conducted at each troop to determine whether the current staffing level is sufficient to provide optimum police service and response, taking into account such things as new or expanded highway construction and use (Casinos at Troop E). Current troop work schedules should be analyzed to ensure that a sufficient number of troopers are working each day and each shift to accomplish the troop goals and provide the required police services expected, while taking into account for excused and unexcused absences. This will have a direct impact on addressing overtime at each troop.

Once the "uniform services" staffing level is determined, a review should be conducted to identify the appropriate staffing level needed for specialized units which are mandated by law such as the Criminal Intelligence Unit, the State-wide Organized Crime Investigative Task Force, the Division of Scientific Services and those units that are not mandated by law such as the Major Crime Units, the Emergency Services Unit, the Traffic Unit and others. And finally, a comprehensive review of the staffing level of command personnel.

In closing, the State Police Union understands the difficult task at hand and, although we have met with the Program Review and Investigations analysts and provided them with information, we will continue to be available should they require further information.

September 25, 2012

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President, Connecticut State Police Union