

Blanchard, Deborah

From: JoAnne Bauer Ph.D. <makingfun@msn.com>
Sent: Friday, March 22, 2013 10:43 AM
To: Blanchard, Deborah
Subject: Racial Profiling Bill

I have provided testimony in the past but cannot be at the hearing this morning. So I am sending this:

Written Testimony
in Support of H.B. No. 6665
(RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING
REVIEW OF TRAFFIC STOP COMPLAINTS
AND THE COLLECTION OF TRAFFIC STOP INFORMATION
WITH RESPECT TO IMMIGRATION STATUS.

I support the Community Party version of the Bill, which will ban patrol officers from harassing motorists and their passengers about their immigration status.

As you know, the Alvin W. Penn Act was named after a state senator who was racially profiled. The Community Party, working on statewide issues, has devoted a large part of its energy to address strengthening language for the Anti-Racial Profiling Bill.

For years, there has been no due diligence in obtaining the information nor was there a safe place for anyone to report these wrongs because the law says one must go to the police departments or the Office of the State's Attorney and offers no other recourse for victims of racial profiling.

The following recommendations would provide CT with the checks and balances needed to insure that the police departments who do comply are handing in accurate reports with regard to the race of the driver and that the driver has recourse available to them that does not force them to make a complaint with the risk of retaliation.

1. The law needs to be strengthened.
2. In order to really strengthen the law, an entity independent of law enforcement must investigate racial profiling complaints.
3. An oversight committee including at least two community stakeholders should be established
4. In addition, the driver should be given a traffic stop receipt which will provide a record of all traffic stops and provide citizens who believe that they have been profiled with a form of recourse which can be anonymous so as to protect the citizen.

The copy of the Traffic Stop Report for the motorist is the 1st layer of protection so that motorists will have the evidence & info they need and will encourage officers to honestly report demographics;

Religion & Sexual Orientation need to be added as Protected Classes;

Immigration Status should not be inquired about unless motorists or passengers are being arrested for criminal activity;

Complaints of Police Misconduct or Profiling should go to an independent entity, not the local P.D.; an Oversight Committee made up of the 3 Minority Commissions, legislators, law enforcement, and 2 community representatives are critical to ensuring enforcement; and lastly, Corrective and/or Punitive consequences for non-compliance in reporting or for offending officers need to be part of the law.

We realize that the data then needs to be analyzed and OPM and others will have to enforce the law but our recommendations will provide a level of protection much overdue.

Sincerely,
JoAnne Bauer