



CONNECTICUT STATE POLICE UNION

Good morning Senator Coleman, Representative Fox, Senator Kissel, Representative Rebimbas and distinguished members of the Judiciary Committee. My name is Andrew Matthews, and I am President of the Connecticut State Police Union. We are in **OPPOSITION** of:

RAISED BILL NO. 6691

"AN ACT CONCERNING THE ISSUANCE OF A WRITTEN COMPLAINT AND SUMMONS FOR THE COMMISSION OF A MISDEMEANOR OR VIOLATION"

This change would **require** that a summons be issued, by a police officer, to the person who was arrested for a Misdemeanor and that person be released on their written promise to appear, providing that person presents proper identification, **WITHOUT** being processed at a police department. Although this may seem to be a good idea, it is not a practical approach to ensure the personal safety for many victims of crimes classified as Misdemeanors.

For example; Assault in the third degree (53a-58), Assault of an elderly, blind, disabled, pregnant or mentally retarded person (53a-61a), Threatening in the second degree (53a-62), Reckless endangerment in the first degree (53a-63), Strangulation in the third degree (53a-64cc), Sexual assault in the fourth degree (53a-73a), Unlawful restraint in the second degree (53a-96), Interfering with a police officer (53a-167a) and the list goes on.

Some of these charges are used regularly when police officers respond to and investigate family violence cases. One of the duties of the responding police officer is to 'safeguard the victim from further abuse". This new change would **require** the police officer to merely issue the aggressor a summons, providing they have proper identification. This limited police action could place the victim in further danger once the police leave the scene, and subject the police department to a potential unnecessary civil liability claim.

These suggested changes to CGS: 54-1h would not be in the best interest of public safety.

April 15, 2013

CONNECTICUT STATE POLICE UNION
Andrew Matthews, Esq. - President