

**Derrilyn Gorski
First Selectman
Town of Bethany
Public Hearing Testimony
Public Safety and Security Committee
Thursday, February 7, 2013**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of **HB 5751** to allow towns that participate in the Resident State Trooper Program the option to share such officers among multiple municipalities.

The costs to the resident state trooper towns have been increasing. The Resident State Trooper program has been in place for over 60 years. Fifty-five communities utilize resident state troopers to provide public safety protection to their citizens. Bethany is one of them.

Currently, towns reimburse the state for 70% of the salary and benefits associated with the resident state trooper program in addition to overtime costs. In 2011, the state legislature *increased* from 70% to 100% the amount towns are required to reimburse the state for Resident State Trooper overtime costs.

Although the Resident State Trooper program is invaluable to Connecticut's small towns, increasing costs associated with the program are putting pressure on towns, particularly given flat levels of state aid and increasing costs associated with other critical programs, such as education.

In addition to Resident Troopers, many towns employ Constables/Police Officers to provide police services for their residents. Towns should be allowed to work collectively to provide police services by sharing the costs and services of a resident state trooper if they deem it effective to do so.