

Testimony for Public Hearing
Public Safety Committee
March 18th, 2013

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Good Evening Public Safety Committee Members. My name is Chris Brewer and I am Vice President for the Connecticut Police and Fire Union. The Connecticut Police and Fire Union represents fire fighters and fire officers at Connecticut Valley Hospital, Southbury Training School, Central Connecticut State University, Bradley Airport, University of Connecticut in Storrs, and the UCONN Health Center in Farmington where I currently work as a Fire Captain.

I am speaking today to support proposed bill no. 6523. This bill clarifies the roles and responsibilities for our fire chiefs and fire officers at the scene of incidents at our state agencies that have existing fire departments. Like municipal fire chiefs this legislation secures a chain of command and more importantly the authority to make decisions to protect these specialized facilities. Our fire departments have trained staff that protects the lives of students, patients, visitors, as well as valuable assets and research. The command and control over emergency incidents at these facilities would best be secured in the hands of the trained professionals assigned to these facilities as opposed to municipal or volunteer fire departments that might respond for mutual aid. These facilities are extremely specialized and require extensive training as well as knowledge of fire protection systems, evacuation plans, security protocols, and technical knowledge of facility operations. We believe this bill will further clarify the current practices as well as ensure the safety and security for the campuses we currently serve. I thank you for your consideration and time to speak today.

Respectfully,

Christopher Brewer

Vice President

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