



## State of Connecticut

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### Testimony in Support of HB 6009 Public Safety and Security Committee February 7, 2013

Chairpersons Hartley and Dargan, Ranking Members Guglielmo and Giegler, and distinguished members of the Public Safety and Security Committee, I appreciate the opportunity to testify in support of **House Bill 6009, An Act Concerning Local Training of Municipal Police Officers.**

Currently all new recruits and certified police officers must complete numerous hours of training that take place in a classroom setting. Most of the classroom curriculum is offered out-of town at the Police Academy in Meriden or other hosting towns and cities. Municipalities spend thousands of dollars training their officers out-of-town, while continuing to pay for officers' salaries and benefits, even though the officers are unavailable to perform their duties for that moment. This bill allows municipalities to provide classroom training to their police officers through the use of interactive technology. This technology would help reduce municipal costs associated with police training and maintain adequate police staff in town.

Using this technology, the Police Officer Standard and Training Council (P.O.S.T.) would provide the course material directly through a secure online system and make it available instantly to any local department that utilizes this technology. P.O.S.T. would maintain control over all the material and would input all the curriculum updates directly into the system. Police officers would be able to log into the system and take courses or electives as required or needed. Instead of simply reading through the materials, the officers would be required to interact with the content by touching the screen to perform the required functions, similar to using an Ipad.

Another added benefit of such technology is that material can be made available for officers in a quick manner and made available statewide with no constraint to class size or date availability. Therefore police departments can continue protecting their communities and receive the valuable training to make them more effective and knowledgeable

I appreciate the committee's consideration of this bill and urge support. At this time, I would be happy to answer any questions you may have. Thank You