

**AFSCME COUNCIL 15  
CONNECTICUT COUNCIL OF POLICE UNIONS**

**TESTIMONY OF ERIC R. BROWN – GENERAL COUNSEL  
BEFORE THE CONNECTICUT GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
JUDICIARY COMMITTEE**

FEBRUARY 24, 2014

**IN OPPOSITION TO H.B. 5060  
AN ACT CONCERNING THE RECORDING OF POLICE ACTIVITY BY THE PUBLIC**

Ladies and Gentlemen of the Committee, my name is Eric Brown and I am general counsel for the Connecticut Council of Police Unions – AFSCME Council 15. We represent 58 local police unions in the state of Connecticut and over 3500 certified municipal police officers.

I speak today in opposition to H.B. 5060 – An Act Concerning the Recording of Police Activity by the Public.

Police officers today are tasked with some of the most dangerous work in society, tracking and arresting criminals who pose severe and violent threats to the general public. Our officers are well-trained, safety-conscious, and often heroic in their efforts. When dealing with a criminal element intent on doing harm to the public safety, our police officers must act in a forceful and aggressive manner on many occasions. Scrutiny of their actions after the fact by viewing videotapes out of context only makes their jobs more difficult and the public safety less secure.

Nobody who serves the public must acquiesce to a videotaping of their performance on a regular basis. The reasons are obvious. Constant scrutiny of a person's performance will make one tentative, unsure, and ultimately unable to perform to the highest standards.

The bill as proposed will have no real beneficial effects upon the public safety and instead will lead to baseless litigation designed to disrupt a police officer's ability and responsibility to perform his duties.

This bill is misguided and unnecessary and should be rejected by this committee in the interests of public safety.