HARTFORD POLICE UNION
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PRESIDENT RICHARD HOLTON
Office of The President

Statement of

The Hartford Police Union

To the

Judiciary Committee

In Support of Raised Bill No. 5060

My name is Richard Holton, President of the Hartford Police Union. Representing men and women who unselfishly serve the residents of Hartford putting their own safety and lives on the line to keep the Capitol City safe and enjoyable. The Hartford Police Union opposes HB 5060.

The first thing HB 5060 would do is cause tedious litigation and increased liability for the State and municipalities. This bill would invite individuals to file law suits to get into the preverbal "deep pockets" of the Towns, Cities as well as the State itself.

This bill would encourage individuals to go beyond the boundaries currently established and feel embolden under an assumption that they would have the right to go beyond what is acceptable, Interfering with law enforcement offices while in the performance of their duties. This bill will also create a more complex dynamic between the police and the public, not only does the officer have to focus and worry about the incident on hand but now they will be distracted by an individual who has stepped beyond those boundaries placing the officer as well as that individual in peril.

CCM, Connecticut Conference of Municipalities, for the past two years has opposed such legislation.

The Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection Commissioners have opposed the bill in the past and currently does not support the bill as written.

This bill will have no impact on public safety; there are already mechanisms in place if an individual feels their rights are violated, and the encouragement of lawsuits is fiscally irresponsible. Based on the above information I urge you not to pass HB 5060. Thank you.

Sergeant Richard Holton
Hartford Police Union Vice President