

Hi my name is Gregg Marchand from Willimantic I disagree with proposed bill no. 5152

## AN ACT CONCERNING THE PENALTY FOR ASSAULT OF OFF-DUTY POLICE OFFICERS.

To provide an enhanced penalty for the assault of a reasonably identifiable off-duty police officer who is in the performance of his or her duties.

I find concerning on the grounds of police are police when on duty now you want them to be police when off duty. Why is it this committee or any other committee doesn't consider police to have a high - risk safety sensitive occupation? You give police all these privileges beyond scope and yet they can get away with doing illegal drugs including the anabolic steroid if they so choose.

I spoke to Lt. Vance on the phone the first thing I asked him was police do not have a high - risk safety sensitive occupation? He replied of course we do. Then I responded that's funny why is it police are not being randomly drug tested under that category? Public Safety Committee before giving police more god like powers make sure their being held to the higher standard that police should be held to. Instead of having them run amuck, after all the reason employees get randomly drug tested is for the safety of fellow employees and for the publics' safety. It's beyond comprehension that the employees that have Public Safety in their title [which are police] are not being randomly drug tested. This proposed bill no.5152 should include the random drug testing of all police that have power of arrest for Improving Pedestrian Safety and safety of themselves.

Let's be sure police are acting in the proper state of mind while on duty of having such a 'High Risk Safety Sensitive Occupation'. Also remember all police carry loaded weapons while upholding the law. Let's finally be responsible and be sure police are acting in the proper state of mind while on duty so there's no doubt they are being held to a higher authority as their occupation requires.

After all police are defenders of public safety, they are charged with one of the highest and most noble responsibilities known to humanity. They are a hero to many, and the antithesis of the crime on the streets that we dread. They are a role model to our children and a protector of our families when we cannot be there. They are the physical embodiment of law and justice to me, and to the everyday man on the street. But they are also human. They are made out of flesh and blood, and thus they also have the same weaknesses and vulnerabilities as everyone else. Yet they cannot show this weakness; just as they cannot show the fear they face when they enter a darkened building where shots have been reported. They are only human and sometimes they can be tempted. Please be sure police are acting in the proper state of mind while being on duty before giving them more privilege above and beyond.