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First Selectman, Town of Harwinton
Public Safety & Security Committee
of the Connecticut General Assembly
March 4, 2014

Testimony in Support of HB 5391- An Act Concerning Overtime and Fringe benefits for Resident State Troopers

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today in support of HB-5391: An Act Concerning Overtime and Fringe Benefits of Resident State Troopers

Harwinton puts great value in its Resident State Trooper program. The program historically has provided the town with a strong public safety program while not overburdening property taxpayers.

However, the escalating cost of the Resident State Trooper Program is a major concern for Harwinton. The fringe benefit rate has increased significantly each year to reach its current level of 83.85%. The town of Harwinton struggles to find savings in its budget to offset this steep escalation of costs. Towns also may consider abandoning the Resident State Trooper Program entirely in light of the continually increasing burden it places on budgets.

The Resident State Trooper Program also provides a benefit for the state. If towns are forced to abandon the program, the state would have to become fully responsible for the public safety needs for the town.

Therefore, I strongly support HB-5391 because it will assist towns in maintaining resident state trooper programs.