



CONNECTICUT STATE POLICE UNION

Good afternoon Senator Bye, Representative Walker and Distinguished Members of the Appropriations Committee. My name is Andrew Matthews. I am the President of the Connecticut State Police Union, which represents approximately 1,051 Troopers, Sergeants and Master Sergeants. We submit this written testimony on behalf of our membership and in **SUPPORT OF:**

PROPOSED HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 29 & SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 32

"Resolution Proposing Approval of a Collective Bargaining Agreement between the State of Connecticut and the Connecticut State Police Union (NP-1 Bargaining Unit)"

The Connecticut State Police Union leadership appreciates the opportunity to speak before you today about the tentative agreement reached between the Office of Labor Relations and the State Police Union for our 2015-2018 Collective Bargaining Agreement. The State and the Union worked together in good faith to reach this agreement, which is a fair resolution for both parties.

Since 1981, the Connecticut State Police Union has taken great pride in advocating for Troopers who risk their lives every day in order to fulfill their oath of office. As many of you know, Connecticut State Troopers respond with courage, leadership, strength, and professionalism. Often, while faced with the real probability of injury or death, State Troopers advance into violent and deadly situations in order to preserve lives and to protect the public. While performing our duties in the field, it is reassuring to know that we are supported by the Governor's administration and our legislators. Improving our wages, benefits and working conditions is critical for the State Police to attract and retain the most qualified applicants, improve morale, and increase productivity.

Over the past 34 years, we have worked hard as a union to build the reputation and relationship that we have with our employer and partnered together to find solutions. For decades, during difficult financial times, our Union membership has agreed to significant concessions in order to maintain a balanced and positive relationship with the State. Separate from the sacrifices we have made within our contracts, we have assisted the State Police in providing optimal police services with nearly 160 fewer Troopers than we had in recent years. State Troopers' willingness to work long hours and do more with less is crucial to helping the State cut costs.

In closing, the State Police Union leadership understands that we could not have accomplished the improvements to our collective bargaining agreements over the years without the unwavering support of individual State Senators and State Representatives, who understand the importance of public safety. We are thankful to those who understand that Troopers are subject to far greater risk of injury or death in order to protect the liberties and safety of everyone here in Connecticut. We are extremely proud of the services that we provide to protect the public and are grateful to those who help protect our families.

Based on the foregoing, we respectfully ask the Appropriations Committee to support this resolution.

April 21, 2015

CONNECTICUT STATE POLICE UNION
Andrew Matthews, Esq. - President

