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**Testimony to the Government Administration and Elections Committee
February 13, 2015
Chief Paul Fitzgerald, Connecticut Police Chiefs Association**

The Connecticut Police Chiefs supports the right of the people to have information about individuals we arrest. The Police Chiefs also are concerned about protecting victims, witnesses and the rights of the accused.

The Chiefs respectfully oppose HB 6750 as written. The language is overly broad and vague when it states, "any other public record that pertains to the arrest of any person shall be disclosed...." Such language will contribute to confusion and increase appeals and litigation based upon individual interpretation.

The existing Freedom of Information law provides for the release of information and protects victims and witnesses. The existing law also protects the rights of the accused by allowing for information to be disclosed at trial.

Many situations require detailed and in-depth investigation after an arrest. Premature release of information may harm the ongoing investigation, the state's criminal prosecution or adversely tarnish a person's reputation if they are later exonerated.