

CTSPJ
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Feb. 13, 2015

**CTSPJ Urges Passage of H.B. 6750:
Testimony for the General Administration and Elections Committee**

The Connecticut chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists represents journalists across the state. Typically, our members write about your towns and observe your hearings, but today we submit testimony asking you to vote in favor of H.B. 6750.

The bill is needed because of a recent Supreme Court decision which changed the 20-year-old interpretation of state law. We urge a return to the original meaning that was more open and more transparent.

Please clarify that your predecessors in the General Assembly wanted the requirement that police departments disclose police blotters and records of arrest to be a minimum obligation, not a maximum. Law enforcement have a number of FOIA exemptions and we can debate and disagree on their merits. This bill is much more clear cut. Passage will simply require police departments to use the same exemptions they have relied on to keep sensitive information safe for the past two decades. Without this bill, police activity will become less open, which comes at great risk.

Sincerely,

The board of directors for the Connecticut chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists