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TESTIMONY REFERENCE H.B. No. 5437

AN ACT CONCERNING THE ALVIN W. PENN RACIAL PROFILING PROHIBITION ACT.

I urge the Joint Committee on the Judiciary to reject this proposal.

Requiring a special device to be placed in each police car in the state does not make sense, would be far too costly to the citizens of Connecticut, and would duplicate systems already in place to capture the information required.

Almost every police department in Connecticut has some type of computer aided dispatch system (CAD), in which data fields exist, or may easily be added, to capture age, gender and race of motorists as reported by police patrols during the course of their duties. Making the reporting of such data mandatory is the answer.

Having a mechanism to solicit complaints from motorists is nonsensical, as aggrieved motorists have never been hesitant to file complaints when they believe an officer has acted improperly. If motorists need additional notice, require the Infractions Bureau to print the required information on infraction and misdemeanor summonses. Police officers already have a hefty paperwork burden without requiring more paperwork in the field. Additionally, with the increasing use of cameras in police vehicle and body-worn cameras, additional documentation of an officer's activity is already being compiled, without duplicating the citizen contact information.

Sincerely,

Matthew F. Tyszka, Jr.
Lieutenant Colonel-Retired
Connecticut State Police