Connecticut is served by twenty-six career deputy U.S. marshals who protect the employees and the public at the three federal courthouses, also actively pursue fugitive felons through a USMS led joint federal/local taskforce (679 fugitive felons were arrested in Connecticut in 2014, including 441 violent state felons) and perform a diverse range of law enforcement activities to protect the citizens of Connecticut and the United States. The USMS is an important part of both the state and federal justice systems. The technical fix outlined in H.B. 7027 will insure the agency can continue its important work of protecting the people of Connecticut.

I thank the Judiciary Committee and its leadership for raising this bill and appreciate the opportunity to offer this testimony.

Joseph P. Faughnan
United States Marshal
District of Connecticut

U.S. Department of Justice

United States Marshals Service

District of Connecticut

New Haven, CT

March 16, 2015

Testimony of the United States Marshal for the District of Connecticut, Joseph P. Faughnan in support of H.B. 7027 AN ACT CONCERNING REVISIONS TO CERTAIN CRIMINAL STATUTES

Chairman Coleman, Chairman Tong, Senator Kissel, Representative Rebimbas and the members of the Judiciary Committee:

I appreciate the opportunity to present this testimony in support of H.B.7027, specifically Section 2, which restores the ability of United State Marshal Service (USMS) personnel to make arrests for felonies committed under Connecticut law. I believe this important technical correction will make our communities safer and strengthen the collaboration between federal, state and local law enforcement.

At present, Connecticut is the only state in the nation that does not provide general arrest authority to USMS personnel for state law felonies either through statute, or through the office of sheriff. 28 U.S. Code § 564 provides that U.S. marshals have the same powers as sheriffs under a state's laws. Prior to the abolition of the office of sheriff in Connecticut and the adoption of Public Act 00-99, C.G.S. §§ 53-278 and 53a-3 both included sheriffs in the definition of "peace officer." As a result, prior to the adoption of this act, USMS personnel had the same powers as other peace officers pursuant to these statutes. Public Act 00-99 substituted the terms "judicial marshals" and "state marshals" (the successor offices) in these statutes. The technical correction in H.B.7027 would restore the arrest authority and protection for state law felonies that USMS personnel had prior to the abolition of the office of sheriff.

The mission of the United States Marshal Service is to enforce federal laws and support virtually all elements of the federal justice system by providing for the security of federal court facilities and the safety of judges and other court personnel; apprehending fugitives; exercising custody of federal prisoners and providing for their security and transportation to detention facilities; executing federal court orders; managing and disposing of the assets seized and forfeited by federal law enforcement agencies; at the direction of the Attorney General enforce civil rights provisions in federal law; and assuring the safety of protected government witnesses and their families.

I was appointed by President Obama as the United States Marshal for the District of Connecticut in 2010 after a 43 year career in law enforcement including serving as a Major in the Connecticut State Police and as the Police Chief of Clinton. In addition to the U.S. Marshal, the District of