



**State of Connecticut**  
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**Statement of Bruce Morris**  
**Chairman of the Black and Puerto Rican Caucus**  
**State Representative for the 140th Assembly District**  
**For the Joint Committee on Judiciary**  
**March 20, 2015**

**In Support of:**  
**S.B. 1109 An Act Concerning Excessive Use Of Force &**  
**S.B 652, An Act Concerning The Investigation Of The Use Of Deadly Force By A Peace Officer That**  
**Results In The Death Of A Person**

Good Afternoon Senator Coleman, Representative Tong, and Honorable members of the Judiciary Committee. As Chairman of the Black and Puerto Rican Caucus, I would like to express our strong support of S.B. 1109, An Act Concerning Excessive Use Of Force and S.B. 652, An Act Concerning The Investigation Of The Use Of Deadly Force By A Peace Officer That Results In The Death Of A Person .

**SB 1109:**

SB 1109 takes essential steps in restoring trust between law enforcement and minority communities by further establishing transparency, accountability, and cultural competency within the entity.

**S.B 652:**

S.B 652 requires the appointment of a special assistant state's attorney or a prosecutor outside the judicial district of where the deadly occurrence transpired. This bill eliminates the possibility of an unfair and partial justice process when deadly force by a peace officer results in the death of a person.

The Black and Puerto Rican Caucus strongly believes that both bills are necessary in order to give our communities a peace of mind and reensure justice is for everyone, regardless of title, race, and income. There have been too many occurrences where police officers over step their boundaries and are given impunity. Giving passage to SB 1109 & SB 652 will reinstall trust, good government, and cultural sensitivity in law enforcement.

Thank you chairmen and committee members for the opportunity to present testimony.

Respectfully submitted,

Bruce V. Morris  
Chairman of the Black and Puerto Rican Caucus

State Representative, 140th District