

March 20, 2015

State Representative John Hampton
Members of the Judiciary Committee

S.B. No. 1094 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING ASSAULT WITH ENHANCED
PENALTIES

Please allow me to introduce myself, my name is Paul G Krupinski. I ask of you today to add to S.B. No. 1094, language that will include security guards and loss prevention agents and provide a higher degree of safety and protection for these individuals.

I am a retired police officer from the Town of Farmington. From 1993 to 2001, I was assigned to the Westfarms Mall as the Community Police Officer. In my position, I had daily interactions with both security guards and loss prevention agents. While most interactions were uneventful, there were others that involved assault and injury to these individuals while performing their duties to protect both the public and the assets of the retailers. Some of the injuries were minor in nature, however there were incidents that required medical treatment. In addition, there was loss of time from work and the associated costs to both the individual and their employer. The injuries were caused by the use of weapons, hands, feet, inanimate objects such as a chair and in some cases motor vehicles.

For the past 14 years, I have been in upper management positions in both security and loss prevention. The number of assaults has not decreased on my employees nor the employees of other companies in both Connecticut and across the United States. In 2015, 9 have died from assaults across the country while performing their duties. In 2014, 33 died as a result of being assaulted. Most businesses that employ security guards and loss prevention agents do not publish nor wish to share the statistical information on the number of employees that are victims of assault. As a result, it has been difficult collecting the information. However, as we know, there are many media accounts of incidents that are reported and there are many more unreported through the media.

Security guards and loss prevention agents are the first line defense for crimes against the businesses and people they are hired to protect. I strongly encourage and ask you to protect them as you have done for so many other professions under 53a-167c and include them under S.B. 1094.

Respectfully,

Paul G Krupinski

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