

**Judiciary Committee**  
**March 20, 2015**  
**Senate Bill 1106**

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

My name is Gary Mazzone. I am employed as a Police Inspector with the Division of Criminal Justice (DCJ). I am currently assigned to the Litchfield State's Attorney's office. I am a member of the Executive Board of the Police Inspector's Council of the Connecticut State Employees Association/Service Employees International Union Local 2001.

I am writing today to express **support and endorse** the section of Senate Bill 1106 "An Act Concerning the Indemnification of Law Enforcement Professionals" which adds Police Inspectors employed by the Division of Criminal Justice to the list of state law enforcement agencies currently covered by the indemnification section.

My fellow Inspectors and I work alongside municipal and state police officers on a daily basis. Inspectors have the same powers of arrest as State troopers. Our duties include but are not limited to, investigating crimes, responding to major crime scenes (e.g., murders, arsons, etc.) with local and state police, making arrests, executing search warrants, extraditing and transporting serious felony offenders to Connecticut from all over the United States. Even though we are employed by the prosecutor's arm of the criminal justice system, it is apparent that we handle the same duties as do municipal and state police officers. For these reasons I feel that we (Police Inspectors) should be added to the indemnification portion of this bill. I would ask that the members of your committee vote favorably on this portion of SB1106.

I am also writing today to **oppose** the sections of Senate Bill 1106 regarding the changes transferring liability from the officer's employing agency to "... the governmental unit that brought such charge or prosecuted such person ...".

I cannot fathom how this language was even considered, let alone added to this proposed legislation. Why should the folks who prosecute police officers for criminal offenses, be penalized if a not guilty verdict is rendered? Is the purpose of this language to stymie the prosecution of police officers who commit criminal acts? Ask any attorney who practices criminal law in this state, whether they are prosecutors or defense bar members about the ability of juries to make consistent findings of guilt. It just does not happen in the real world. The adage of "you never know what a jury will do" is very real. I can't see any need to move the indemnification from municipalities to the Division of Criminal Justice and the State of Connecticut.

Respectfully submitted,

Gary Mazzone  
Police Inspector  
Division of Criminal Justice