



## STATE OF CONNECTICUT

Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection  
Dr. Dora B. Schriro, Commissioner

Appropriations Committee

April 21, 2015

HB 6825-AN ACT MAKING DEFICIENCY APPROPRIATIONS AND ADDRESSING THE DEFICIT FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2015

Good afternoon Senator Bye, Representative Walker and distinguished members of the Appropriations Committee. I am Dora Schriro, Commissioner of the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection. Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today.

The Office of Policy and Management has recognized a \$5M deficiency in Personal Services for the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP).

This deficiency is attributed in part to a transfer of \$2.3M from Personal Services to Other Expenses to address rising utility rates, increased use of supplies at the Division of Scientific Services to resolve the backlog and analyze more evidence faster, several significant trooper injuries resulting in increased claims to the worker's compensation account, and increased costs for motor vehicle repairs.

The remaining \$2.7M is the result of overtime spending. We've made great strides over the last year in reducing agency overtime across all Divisions, including the Division of State Police, during the same time that trooper vacancies increased threefold. Fiscal year to date, we've cut overtime by over 23,000 hours, a cost reduction equal to about \$1.3M. We will continue to improve and to that end, now we are comprehensively addressing the several staffing anomalies that were identified in this year's staffing study.

You can count on us to identify and act upon opportunities to reduce spending and improve outcomes during these difficult economic times, and in every economic environment, to make the most efficient and effective use of every asset.

Thank you kindly for your attention. I am prepared to answer any questions that you may have.