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**TESTIMONY of  
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**S.B. No. 902 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING WORKERS' COMPENSATION COVERAGE FOR POLICE OFFICERS AND FIREFIGHTERS WITH POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER.**

February 17, 2015

Honorable Senator Larson, Honorable Representative Dargan, and esteemed members of the Public Safety Committee:

The Foundation for Fair Contracting of Connecticut ("FFC") submits this letter in support of S.B. No. 902 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING WORKERS' COMPENSATION COVERAGE FOR POLICE OFFICERS AND FIREFIGHTERS WITH POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS DISORDER.

We praise the committee for raising this bill which closely mirrors Raised Bill 593 AN ACT CONCERNING SEVERE MENTAL AND EMOTIONAL IMPAIRMENT AND WORKERS' COMPENSATION COVERAGE. Unfortunately, it has become a reality that people may experience trauma while at work, and that traumatic experience may lead to mental or emotional distress and impairment. Police officers, fire fighters and first responders are obvious examples of those who work in high risk environments and who deserve to receive workers' compensation in the event of experiencing trauma while on the job. Adding post-traumatic stress disorder to workers' compensation coverage de-stigmatizes the diagnosis and helps to create an environment that promotes accessing help and support.

In addition to amending the statute to provide these brave workers with workers' compensation for post-traumatic stress disorder suffered from a work related duty or experience, the FFC recommends that construction workers be added to this coverage.

According to the United States Department of Labor Bureau of Labor Statistics, there were 796 fatal injuries in the private construction sector in 2013, which "accounted for the highest number of fatal work injuries in any industry". Seven private construction fatalities took place in the state of CT, which also accounted for the highest number of fatal work injuries in any industry. (US DOL, 2014)

We encourage the committee to pass this bill, with the addition of construction workers, so that all those who experience emotional trauma on the job can receive the proper care that they need to be productive in the workforce.

US DOL, (2014). National census of fatal occupational injuries summary, 2013. Retrieved from <http://www.bls.gov/news.release/cfoi.nr0.htm>

US DOL, (2014). Fatal occupational injuries in Connecticut. Retrieved from <http://www.bls.gov/iif/oshwc/cfoi/tgs/2013/iiffw09.htm>