



Testimony of James Cornwell

Director of Operations

Phoenix Investigations

In Favor of Proposed Bill

SB 237 – AN ACT CONCERNING THE TRAINING OF SECURITY PERSONNEL

Public Safety & Security Committee

March 3, 2016

Senator Larson, Representative Dargon, Senator Guglielmo, Representative Zupkus and members of the Committee. My name is James Cornwell, Director of Operations for Phoenix Investigations. In the interest of time for the members of the Committee, with me today are a group of people who have spent a lot of energy, effort and commitment over many months to establish the information in the testimony I'm going to provide and the booklet you will receive. But rather than having each of us testify individually, this testimony speaks on behalf of all the people with me and the number of others who participated with us, but couldn't be here today. This group is comprised of former Law Enforcement and Department of Corrections personnel totaling over 60 years of combined experience and over 80 years of combined experience as certified instructors in Security and Emergency Medical services training.

This group of professionals met a number of times over the course of the Fall and Winter of 2015. The purpose was to look at the Concept of a piece of legislation like SB 237 and through a true collaborative effort, incorporating the ideas of everyone who participated, we developed a true consensus on what we believe is the best way implement and improve training for security personnel in Connecticut.

What we propose is a Tiered System. This Tiered System would consist of 4 tiers: Each tier has its own specific level of required experience, skill set, and certification/recertification requirements inclusive of in-service training. We propose a tiered system comprised of four different levels. A Personal Protection Specialist or EP Executive Protection Specialist would require the highest level of training and experience for security personnel, which is Level Four.

Understanding that my 3 minutes are almost up, I have a booklet here for each member of the Committee which provides a detailed explanation of each Tier and how they work. I'd also be happy to email you a PDF of this booklet if you'd prefer an electronic copy.

At this time, I'd be happy to take questions from the Committee in an effort to explain each Tier, and why as a group we think this method is the best way to go.

Thank you for your time.