



Office of Public Safety, Health & Welfare
City of Stamford
888 Washington Boulevard, 10th floor
Stamford, CT 06901

**Testimony of Thaddeus K. Jankowski, Director of Public Safety, Health & Welfare
Support of Bill 244, An Act Concerning The Reporting Of Injuries Resulting From The Discharge Of A
Firearm And Stab Wounds
March 2, 2016**

Good afternoon Senator Coleman, Representative Tong, Senator Kissel, Representative Rebimbas and distinguished members of the Judiciary Committee. My name is Thaddeus Jankowski and I am the Director of Public Safety in the City of Stamford.

On behalf of the City of Stamford, the Stamford Police Department and for the protection of victims of stab wounds we wish to ask for your SUPPORT of Proposed S.B. No. 244 – An Act Concerning the Reporting of Injuries Resulting From the Discharge Of A Firearm and Stab Wounds.

Sometimes a health care provider treats a patient for an injury or illness, such as a stab wound that suggests a violent crime has occurred. Law enforcement may not be aware of these situations unless someone tells them. The proposed amendment is necessary to expand current reporting procedures for stab wounds to local police departments and/or the state police to enhance victim safety by enabling law enforcement timely responses to these potentially high risk incidents.

Stab wounds are inflicted at a much greater rate than gunshot wounds and may occur because of intentional violence or through self-infliction. Reporting a stab wound may prevent further injury to the victim in a hospital or outpatient facility and will provide victims the supports and interventions needed to be protected from further harm. Not only will reporting give police information about a suspected crime but also will engage victim service programs that can provide additional support and safety planning.

We are not advocating for physicians to become crime fighters, we are interested in public safety and injury prevention. Health care professionals will not have to make any determination of a wound being criminal in nature – that is the responsibility for the police and other components of the criminal justice system.

As the Director of Public Safety for the City of Stamford, I respectfully urge you to support and adopt SB 244 to provide the same reporting requirements for stab wounds as that for a bullet wound, a gunshot wound or any injury arising from the discharge of a firearm. The approval of SB 244 will ensure a law enforcement response; provide protections for victims as required and access for

victims to victim service programs for additional support and safety planning. Victims of stab wounds need and deserve our full support.

Respectfully,

Thaddeus K. Jankowski
Director of Public Safety, Health & Welfare