

MAYOR  
DAVID R. MARTIN



CHIEF OF POLICE  
JONATHAN FONTNEAU

**STAMFORD POLICE DEPARTMENT**  
805 BEDFORD STREET  
STAMFORD, CT 06901-1194  
OFFICE: (203) 977-4681 FAX: (203) 977-5583

Captain Richard Conklin – Stamford Police Department  
Judiciary Committee  
Public Hearing  
March 2, 2016  
Bill #244

An Act Concerning the reporting of Injuries Resulting from Discharge of a Firearm and Stab Wounds.

Senator Coleman, Representative Tong, Senator Kissel, Representative Rebimbas and members of the Judiciary Committee. My name is Richard Conklin and I am the Commander of the Stamford Police Bureau of Criminal Investigations. Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today to testify in favor of Bill #244, An Act Concerning the Reporting of Injuries Resulting From the Discharge Of A Firearm and Stab Wounds.

This is an important bill for the community and law enforcement. It must be mandated that stab wounds be reported to law enforcement.

There are many victims that are reluctant to report stab wounds. These victims include, but are not limited to domestic violence victims, victims with concerns regarding immigration status, victims that have attempted suicide or harmed themselves, victims that are wanted or fugitives, and victims that are intoxicated or under the influence of narcotics.

One of the most important reasons why the timely reporting of stab wounds is so crucial is the collection and preservation of evidence and the identification of witnesses.

Crucial evidence will often be destroyed or lost if not collected in a timely fashion. For victims who present themselves at emergency care location it is important to identify and safe guard crime scenes until they can be processed.

At emergency care locations, wounds must be documented and photographed. Clothing that has puncture and slash damage must be collected and preserved as important evidence.

The reporting of gunshot wounds has been mandatory, and has served the community well. It should be noted that stab wounds occur far more frequently than gunshot wounds.

Support of this bill would provide law enforcement with another tool to help ensure public safety.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Capt. Richard J. Conklin". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Captain Richard J. Conklin

Commander Stamford Police Department Bureau of Criminal Investigations