

Judiciary Committee
March 7, 2016

Senate Bill 326: An Act Concerning the Indemnification of Law Enforcement Professionals
Senate Bill 363: An Act Concerning Revisions to Various Statutes Concerning the Criminal Justice System

Good afternoon Senator Coleman, Representative Tong, and members of the Joint Committee on Judiciary:

My name is Lt. Michael Thomas and I am the Commanding Officer of the Eastern District Major Crime Squad. I am also president of the Commissioned Officers Association of the State Police, which represents Captains and Lieutenants' and is part of CSEA SEIU Local 2001. I come before you today to **testify in support of Senate Bill 326: An Act Concerning the Indemnification of Law Enforcement Professionals and Senate Bill 363: An Act Concerning Revisions to Various Statutes Concerning the Criminal Justice System.** Both of these bills correct what we believe to be an oversight in Connecticut General Statute section 53-39a. While this statute indemnifies virtually every other state and municipal police officer in Connecticut for economic loss, including attorney's fees, for a criminal prosecution resulting from a line of duty incident for which the officer is later exonerated or the charges are dismissed; this statute does not include our brothers and sisters in the Inspectors Division of Criminal Justice.

Without question, Inspectors should have the same indemnification protection as the rest of Connecticut's law enforcement professionals. Both S.B. No. 326 and S.B. No. 363 include an identical change that will correct this error and I encourage you to support either, or both bills.

Lt. Michael Thomas
President, Commissioned Officers Association, State Police Captains and Lieutenants' Union
CSEA SEIU Local 2001