



## State of Connecticut

### HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STATE CAPITOL

REPRESENTATIVE FRED CAMILLO  
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MEMBER  
BANKING COMMITTEE  
EXECUTIVE AND LEGISLATIVE NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

## TESTIMONY

*In Support of H.B. No. 5273  
An Act Concerning The Penalty for Assault of An Off-Duty Police Officer*

*Public Safety Committee*

*March 1, 2015*

Dear Senator Larson, Representative Dargan, Senator Guglielmo, Representative Zupkus and distinguished members of the Public Safety Committee:

I want to thank you for this opportunity to testify on House Bill 5273, AAC The Penalty for Assault of An Off-Duty Police Officer. This bill passed out of committee last year but unfortunately was not called in the House and Senate.

A few years back, we had a brutal attack on an off-duty police officer who came to the aid of someone who was being attacked in a restaurant. It was later established the assailants knew that the man who was coming to the aid was a law enforcement professional. A camera in the municipal jail later confirmed the men took great pleasure knowing they inflicted serious harm on the off-duty police officer.

We all benefit from having law enforcement professionals live amongst us in each of the 169 municipalities. As we all know and observe each day, these brave men and women are never truly "off duty". Instead, they provide us comfort in knowing they are out in public, and are usually always there to protect us, even when "off the clock".

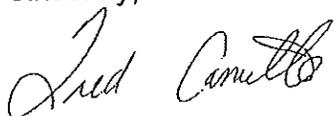
I think it is imperative that we afford them the same peace of mind and degree of protection off duty as they do when they are on duty and coming to the aid of their fellow

citizens. Without this, I fear there will come a day when off-duty police officers will not be willing to do what comes natural to them: protecting innocent citizens.

It is important to note that this bill would not provide protection for any off-duty police officer who is engaged in inappropriate activities and or behaviors. The intent of this bill is clear, it is for the benefit of not only off-duty police officers, but also our citizens who are the recipients of the selfless and brave actions of many of our finest law enforcement professionals.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Fred Camillo". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Fred Camillo  
State Representative