

Hobart, Jamie

From: Richard Nelson <rvnted@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 02, 2016 10:36 AM
To: pstestimony
Subject: SB-237

Dear Members of the Public Safety and Security Committee

I am writing to express my concern on bill SB 237. I have been a Security Officer since 1985 at various locations in Hartford and much of this time has been spent training new officers. I am especially concerned with the new requirements on the use of a baton, nightstick, pepper spray and handcuffs. I foresee many problems with many of the officers that I have trained over the years if given the use of such forceful weapons. I also see a problem that many of us will have in our refusal to use such weapons and therefore the loss of our jobs.

Most Security companies I know pay very little in wages, (a whole other ballgame in organizing for a living wage and union benefits,) and to think that we should or could take on such responsibilities with only a few hours of training is ludicrous. Many of us feel that we could open ourselves up to lawsuits, injuries, and potential death over inadequate training by our companies in the way that Guard Card courses are taught.

I work in a high rise building in downtown Hartford. There are 8 officers who have been working at this site for quite awhile. Six of us have expressed grave concerns over these additions and six of us would more than likely lose our jobs if we did not comply. I don't think that asking us to play cops would be in the best interests of our jobs, of the building that we work in or the people that we protect each day.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

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