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**TESTIMONY – Labor and Public Employees Committee Hearing
February 21, 2017
In OPPOSITION of H.B. #'s 5552, 6662 and 6663**

My name is Glenn Terlecki and I the President of the Connecticut Police and Fire Union. I am also a Motor Vehicle Inspector (Police Officer) with the Department of Motor Vehicles and have been for the last 18+ years. It is unfortunate that yet again I have to submit testimony this year over potential legislation that attacks my profession. Every year it seems that Connecticut legislators attempt to introduce more and more anti-police bills. The vast majorities of these proposed bills are unnecessary and give the impression to those in my profession that law enforcement is unappreciated and mistrusted. I hope this is not the case.

Proposed House Bill #'s 6662 and 6663 that are being heard before the Labor and Public Employees Committee on Tuesday are prime examples of BAD BILLS.

At what point do legislators respect law enforcement enough to support them with more than just lip service? Certainly during political campaigns, lawmakers are more than willing to receive campaign endorsements from police unions, only to have their memories fade away and fall victim to some out-of-state questionable police incident that gets national media attention. Is law enforcement that much of an untrustworthy and dishonorable profession these days?

Police Officers are now facing more pressure than ever before. In addition to the threats to our personal safety, we are attacked in the media and we are attacked in the courts. Despite these incredible challenges that make our jobs difficult, today's public safety professionals have accepted these challenges and continue to keep our communities safe.

Not only is law enforcement criticized for what happens on the streets but we are also criticized for what happens at the table - the bargaining table. Our pensions are negotiated by our labor unions leaders in good faith with representatives from the Governor's office. Over my entire career I have never felt comfortable that my pension benefits were secure despite a long-term negotiated agreement (SEBAC Pension and Healthcare Agreement). At least if SEBAC leaders where to consider changes to the pension agreement, members of each bargaining unit would have the opportunity to vote to accept or reject such changes. If the General Assembly passes House Bill # 5552, WE HAVE NO SAY AND NO VOTE. That is wrong and again strips away benefits from a profession that is clearly under attack from all angles!

Law enforcement officers employed by the State have made vast concessions to their pay and benefits through the collective bargaining process throughout my entire career. At what point is enough – enough? We don't ask for a lot. In fact, all we ask is that in return for a long and distinguished career, promises that were made to us regarding our pay and benefits are kept. Please do not undermine these promises, especially to those employees who have sacrificed the most to keep our society safe under such increasingly difficult circumstances.

Please OPPOSE HB #'s 6662, 6663 and 5552.

Glenn Terlecki
President, Connecticut Police and Fire Union