



**Government Administration and Elections Committee
February 26, 2018**

Testimony in Support of HB 5176, An Act Protecting Municipal Police Officers and Their Families.

Support HB 5173, An Act Protecting the Privacy of Voters

Good afternoon Chairwoman Flexer, Chairman McLachlan, and Chairman Fox. My name is Zak Leavy and I am a legislative advocate for AFSCME Council 4 which represents 35,000 public and private employees across Connecticut, including 7,000 law enforcement and public safety personnel in state and municipal government.

I am here to speak in support of HB 5176, An Act Protecting Municipal Police Officers and Their Families.

We are in support of HB 5176 but I believe it should be amended to include correction officers and their families, as well as other state public safety employees that are currently shielded such as the employees in judicial, DCF social workers, judges, and prosecutors. Including them in this bill is vital to the safety of our members who work extremely stressful jobs in correctional facilities. They should not have to worry about current or former inmates having the ability to easily track down personal information via voter registration files.

Correction officers understand the risk that comes with their job when they are on duty at state prisons, but that risk should not follow them home. The correctional officer's uniform already has their last name on their uniform, making it one step easier for felons to match the name to voter registration rolls. It is hard to imagine a reason why the last name of family members in the homes of correction officers and other state public safety personnel should be public. This poses a danger to their safety and their family's safety.

We support HB 5176 and ask for it to be amended to include correction officers and other shielded public safety employees to protect these dedicated public safety workers and their families.

We also support HB 5173, An Act Protecting the Privacy of Voters which limits who the secretary of state can sell the statewide voter file to. This bill ensures that this information goes to legitimate organizations or for legitimate purposes only.