

February 26, 2018

Testimony in support of HB 5176

AN ACT PROTECTING MUNICIPAL POLICE OFFICERS AND THEIR FAMILIES.

Government Administration and Elections Committee

To the Chairs and the distinguished members of the Government Administration and Elections Committee:

First I would like to thank you for this opportunity to submit my written testimony and thank you for raising HB 5176 AN ACT PROTECTING MUNICIPAL POLICE OFFICERS AND THEIR FAMILIES to which I fully support.

I am a resident of Newtown, CT and have also served the community as a Newtown Police officer for the last 10 years. I was raised in Newtown myself, and am proud to give back to the community that I have gotten so much from. My wife who is also a life-long Newtown resident, and I are raising our two children in the town we both grew up in and now serve.

While I enjoy living and working in the community I serve, there have been times that have had the potential to be problematic. There have been some instances when my family and I have run into a person that has been arrested by myself or another officer, or someone who I know has had police contact due to a negative circumstance. I have never had any issue or negative interaction occur with someone like this while off duty with my family, but have certainly had concerns afterwards. I've spoken with other police officers who also live and work in their community who all have had the same experience. For this reason many police officers choose to reside outside of the town they work for. However, I strongly believe that the town and residents do benefit from having their police officers reside in the town they serve.

I know that a simple Internet search can yield more personal information on someone than most would feel comfortable with. However, the approval of this bill can add just one more layer of protection. A law enforcement officer (LEO) reports to work every day knowing the risks and potential harm they could face, but his or her family should be able to feel safe within their own community. The advancement of this bill can offer LEO families just a little more peace of mind knowing there is one less avenue someone can take to obtain their personal information. In the Nation's climate that LEO's face today, I especially support HB 5176 and urge the committee's support as well. Thank you all for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Richard Monckton