



**Transportation Committee  
March 14, 2018**

**SB 388 – AN ACT ESTABLISHING A PILOT PROGRAM FOR SPEED DETECTING CAMERAS AND CONCERNING SPEED WARNING SIGNS.**

Good afternoon Chairman Guerrara, Chairman Leone, Chairwoman Boucher and Members of the Transportation Committee. My name is Derek Puorro. I am a Middletown police detective and chairman of the Public Safety Council of Council 4 AFSCME, a union of 32,000. We represent over 2,000 Connecticut municipal police officers.

We oppose SB 388, An Act Establishing a Pilot Program for Speed Detecting Cameras and Concerning Speed Warning Signs. This bill would establish a pilot program for up to four municipalities that would allow them to install speed detecting cameras at intersections and/or school zones rather than a uniformed police officer. This bill would allow for cameras to act as a deterrent which is a poor replacement for a uniformed professional police officer. A better deterrent to slow traffic patterns at intersections or school zones is to have a police officer present. Drivers seeing a police car or officer is a more likely to drive safely and adhere to the law than those driving by a camera. Also, being found to have violated the law by camera seems to go against our system of due process and jurisprudence. Being found to have violated the law by machine is a strange concept.

We also would still need staff to review the tapes and issue citations when drivers speed, which would limit any savings seen from this pilot program. Also, often when officers are on such road duty they have been able to thwart other crimes. Programs that reduce the number of police officers leave the public less protected. A way to address short-staffing issues in municipalities is through better funding from the state that would allow communities to hire more police officers.

We urge the committee to oppose SB 388, An Act Establishing a Pilot Program for Speed Detecting Cameras and Concerning Speed Warning Signs.