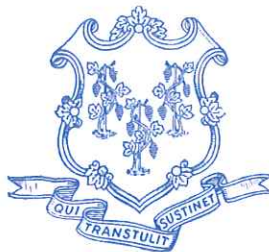


SENATOR BOB DUFF

MAJORITY LEADER

Twenty-fifth District

Norwalk & Darien



State of Connecticut

SENATE

State Capitol  
Hartford, Connecticut 06106-1591

Capitol: 860-240-8600

Home: 203-840-1333

Bob.Duff@cga.ct.gov

[www.SenatorDuff.cga.ct.gov](http://www.SenatorDuff.cga.ct.gov)

**Testimony of State Senate Majority Leader Bob Duff in Support of  
Senate Bill 556, *An Act Concerning Additional Compensation for Certain Retired Public  
Safety Employees*  
Planning and Development Committee  
February 27, 2019**

Senator Cassano, Representative McCarthy Vahey, Senator Chamagne, Representative Zawistowski and distinguished members of the Planning and Development Committee: I am here to testify today in favor of Senate Bill 556, *An Act Concerning Additional Compensation for Certain Retired Public Safety Employees*.

I first became aware of this issue because of the tireless efforts of Debbie Rosselle advocating for her husband, Norwalk Police Officer Phil Rosselle. Officer Rosselle was hurt in a freak training accident which resulted in him being shot. The wound has exacerbated his other health challenges and as a result, Officer Rosselle has been unable to return to work.

Under the workers' compensation system that Connecticut utilizes, Officer Rosselle only receives 80% of his normal pay. Debbie Rosselle has been fighting for Connecticut to adopt a system similar to Massachusetts uses. This allows the legislative body of the town or city to make whole the injured first responder. The money would not come out of the workers' compensation fund but instead would be an appropriation from the town or city.

With this system, we would look out for those who look out for us. It is only fair that we pay injured police officers and fire fighters their full salary when they are out on disability.

I thank the committee for having a hearing on this bill and ask that you give it a favorable report. I look forward to working with you as this bill moves forward.