



**Testimony of David O'Connor In Support of SB 556
Planning & Development Committee
Feb. 27, 2019**

Chairman Cassano, Chairman McCarthy-Vahey and members of the Planning and Development Committee. My name is Dave O'Connor.

I am a City of Norwalk Police Lieutenant and president of the Norwalk Police Union, AFSCME Local 1727. We are part of Council 4 AFSCME, a union of over 30,000 members, 2,000 of whom are police officers in Connecticut.

Council 4 and our Norwalk police local speak in favor of SB 556, **AN ACT CONCERNING ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION FOR CERTAIN RETIRED PUBLIC SAFETY EMPLOYEES.**

I first want to thank Senator Bob Duff of Norwalk for sponsoring this important legislation in response to the situation involving one of our own, Police Officer Phil Roselle.

This bill is modeled after a Massachusetts law that allows for a municipality to compensate an officer who may be injured in the line of duty so severely that it is necessary for the officer to retire as disabled. Currently, when an officer retires as disabled he or she can receive about 80% of their normal income.

The Massachusetts law that I refer to allows for a town to compensate the officer for the twenty percent disability loss and make them whole at 100 percent of their normal income, until age 65. This is an age at which an officer might be expected to seek retirement. The law allows a town's governing legislative body – its council or board of selectmen – to vote by at least 2/3rds to provide such a payment to the injured officer.

I have worked with Officer Phil Roselle, who was injured in a tragic shooting accident while on duty. He is a good and loyal police officer. There is no doubt that Phil would have worked to 65 years-of-age had this accident not occurred.

It is a decent and humane thing for the General Assembly to pass this bill and then hopefully for the City of Norwalk to make use of this law and make Phil and his family whole.

Thank you for listening. I would be happy to answer any questions.