



HARTFORD POLICE UNION

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51 Years of Excellence

President Sergeant John Szewczyk
Office of the President

Statement of

The Hartford Police Union Testimony
To the
Planning and Development Committee

In Support of Raised SB 556

Distinguished members of the Planning and Development Committee, my name is Sergeant John Szewczyk, President of the Hartford Police Union, the largest independent municipal police union in the state. We are comprised of Patrolmen, Detectives, Sergeants, Lieutenants, Captains, Matrons, and Animal Control Officers.

The Hartford Police Union supports **SB 556, *An Act Concerning Additional Compensation for Certain Retired Public Safety Employees.***

Police officers have an incredibly high rate of on the job injuries which are sustained while in the performance of their duties. In a recent article by Safety and Health titled, Assaults leading cause of injuries among law enforcement officers: Law enforcement officers have a nonfatal injury rate nearly three times higher than the general workforce – with “assaults and violent acts” against them the leading cause – according to a recent National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) study¹.

In the same study by the American Journal of Preventative Medicine (AJPM), between 2003 and 2014, an estimated 669,100 law enforcement officers were treated in U.S. emergency departments for nonfatal injuries. The overall rate of 635 per 10,000 full-time equivalents was three times higher than all other U.S. workers rate (213 per 10,000 full-time equivalents). The three leading injury events were assaults and violent acts (35%), bodily reactions and exertion (15%), and transportation incidents (14%)².

Due to the high rate of injuries sustained by police officers in the line of duty, many receive a permanent disability and are forced to retire with a significant loss to their income. This bill proposes to provide some compensatory relief to our disabled police veterans.

I respectfully urge the members of this committee to support **SB 556, *An Act Concerning Additional Compensation for Certain Retired Public Safety Employees.***

Thank you for your consideration into this legislative matter. Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns about this bill.

Sgt. John Szewczyk
Hartford Police Union President

¹ <https://www.safetyandhealthmagazine.com/articles/16858-assaults-leading-cause-of-injuries-among-law-enforcement-officers-niosh>

² [https://www.ajpmonline.org/article/S0749-3797\(17\)30716-X/fulltext](https://www.ajpmonline.org/article/S0749-3797(17)30716-X/fulltext)