CONNECTICUT POLICE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

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Public Hearing: **February 14, 2019**
Committee on Public Safety and Security

Testimony submitted by: **The Connecticut Police Chiefs Association**
Chief Scott Sansom
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H.B. No. 5152 AN ACT CONCERNING A STUDY TO DETERMINE A WAY TO DETECT WHEN A DRIVER IS UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF MARIJUANA.

The following written testimony is being submitted on behalf of the Connecticut Police Chiefs Association in support of Raised Bill 5152, "An act concerning a study to determine a way to detect when a driver is under the influence of marijuana."

The CPCA believes a study into determining when an operator is impaired by marijuana is necessary as it is a beneficial tool for law enforcement to ensure that the public is protected from operating under the influence of marijuana. Currently, the issue of marijuana-impaired driving is not adequately addressed within the current statutory scheme because there is no objective measure regarding marijuana impairment levels when it comes to operating a motor vehicle.

As the neighboring state of Massachusetts has recently legalized marijuana for recreational use, there is an overwhelming concern that the incidences of drugged driving will increase in Connecticut as a result. Additionally, Massachusetts recognized that marijuana-impaired driving has not been adequately addressed within their current statutory scheme. They recently conducted a study regarding the current approach to detecting operating under the influence of marijuana and potential recommendations to better evaluate marijuana-impaired drivers.

The CPCA has an obligation to protect the community by reinforcing safe driving habits and conducting this study would enable law enforcement agencies across Connecticut to implement the best practices regarding marijuana-impaired driving, ultimately ensuring the safety of the Connecticut motoring public.