

Written Testimony for House Bill 5583 AN ACT CONCERNING EMERGENCY INTERVENTION BY A POLICE OFFICER WHEN A PERSON SUFFERS AN OVERDOSE.

3/1/2021

My name is Carl Sferrazza and I am a life-long resident of Enfield CT. I served for 38 years as a Police Officer in my community of Enfield, the last 12 years as Chief of Police. I support this Bill fully as I feel that the main component of this bill seeks to protect Human Life.

As a Police Officer I had occasion to use the Protective Custody law to take individuals who were intoxicated to the point of not being able to take care of themselves to medical facility to be evaluated by a doctor. I also brought people to the hospital if they indicated that they had any suicidal idealization based on the facts available to me at the time. This protective Custody provision allowed me to bring People to health care professionals at a time when their mental state had been altered.

Allowing Police to place individuals who have over dosed on Heroin, is absolutely the best chance to save their lives. Heroin alters your judgement at least as much as intoxication. The ability to place over dosed individuals in protective custody could potentially save lives. I do not find this provision any more intrusive than the ability Police already have under the current protective custody statutes in place.

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