Hi my name is Gregg Marchand from Willimantic I disagree with House Bill no. 5174

H.B. No. 5174 (COMM) AN ACT CONCERNING THE PENALTY FOR ASSAULT OF AN OFF-DUTY POLICE OFFICER OR DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTION EMPLOYEE.

I find concerning on the grounds of police are police when on duty now you want them to be police when off duty. How are they supposed be reasonably identified? What if an off duty officer has it out for someone and they go after the person? What would stop an off duty officer from not going after the person you lawmakers would have the off duty officer immune. So therefore an officer can step out of bounds so to speak with no worries of legal repercussions. Also I thought once a policeman or state trooper you are always on duty? Which brings another concern when I see an officer or a trooper out drinking booze at a bar, is he acting against his obligation and oath as a policeman on the grounds of these people are supposed to be on duty at all times. Also if I understand this bill correctly if an off duty policeman starts trouble or has a roid rage episode a person will be unable to protect themselves? And the citizen will be blamed for the attack?

I wonder why, as many other citizens do that this committee or any other committee doesn’t consider police to have a high - risk safety sensitive occupation? You give police all these privileges beyond scope. They can even get away with doing illegal drugs including the anabolic steroid if they so choose. Showing without doubt lawmakers obviously condone police doing drugs because they do nothing to prevent the police from doing drugs.

Public Safety Committee before giving police more god like powers make sure their being held to the higher standard that police should be held to and not doing drugs. Some police run amuck you pass this law you’ll be opening the door for more uncontrollable behavior. After all the reason employees get randomly drug tested is for the safety of fellow employees and for the publics’ safety. It’s beyond comprehension that the employees that have Public Safety in their description title [which are police] are not being randomly drug tested.

You should have purpose for police as the city of Houston does; Their police is committed to vigorous enforcement of the law while maintaining the highest level of integrity and professionalism. Illegal use of drugs by employees is contrary to these values; testing employees for illegal use of drugs is critical to ensuring that thes values are maintained. They have random drug testing for Houston police.

There is no logical reason[s] for police not to be randomly tested and put on the High Risk Safety Sensitive Occupation list Once it’s a law unions cannot supced the law. Even though you lawmakers repeat it must go through the bargaining table. Which in reality makes the police union more powerful then the law and lawmakers. Gregg Marchand Willimantic, CT 860-423-0443