



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection

Appropriations Committee Opening Statement
February 14, 2020

Good afternoon Senator Osten, Representative Walker, and distinguished members of the Appropriations Committee. I am James Rovella, Commissioner of the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection, and I am joined by our Chief Financial Officer RoseMarie Peshka. I appreciate this opportunity to appear before you today.

I would like to begin by saying that we fully support Governor Lamont's recommended budget adjustments as outlined and are appreciative for the resources provided to the department and the first responder community, such as funds for the criminal history repository modernization project and the purchase of PFAS-free foam. Included in the Governor's proposed budget are funds to support two large Trooper Training classes which have a goal of adding 170 new Troopers to our force. This will help with the attrition we continue to experience in the Connecticut State Police.

Building upon the one-year foundational plan that was undertaken by the department, I am confident that we are positioned to make the very most of our assets.

I want to assure you, that DESPP will continue to do our part to help address the state's current budget situation by leveraging every opportunity to become more effective and efficient with the resources we are provided.

Thank you and I am prepared to answer any questions that you may have.

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