



February 22, 2021

Chairman Winfield, Chairman Stafstrom and members of the Judiciary Committee, my name is Brian Anderson. I am a legislative coordinator for Council 4 AFSCME. Our union represents more than 2,000 Connecticut municipal police officers.

Our union supports Senate Bill 6462, An Act Concerning Use of Force by a Peace Officer. This bill addresses an immediate problem. **The new “use of deadly force” standard is scheduled to begin on April 1 of this year. Yet police officers have not been trained in it. This bill resets the effective date to October 1, 2022, allowing training to occur.** This is a move in the right direction. It is vital for police officers to be trained on the new deadly force standard. It is a substantial change from the current standard, making training crucial.

Policing matters couldn't be more controversial. Policy makers couldn't be more at odds. It is fair to say that different sides have clashed over policing issues. But maybe we can all agree that this bill benefits all sides. It doesn't help anyone for police officers to face a new standard that they don't understand.

We appreciate the changes in section 2 in regards to the language on considering alternatives to the use of deadly force and on considering consequences to bystanders who may be in harm's way. Officers don't want to use deadly force. I have talked to enough to know that. When they do use deadly force it haunts officers. They don't take it lightly and they try to take steps to not use it.

We also urge you to consider Senate Bill 828, which Senator Osten and several other legislators have co-sponsored. It has several sections that improve the law that was passed in July.

It is unusual for the state legislature to pass a bill as early in the session as this bill requires. We appreciate that this bill is written with a March 31st effective date.

Thank you for your consideration.