

Public Hearing Testimony - in SUPPORT of – H.B. No. 6462

“AN ACT CONCERNING USE OF FORCE BY A PEACE OFFICER.”

Judiciary Committee

February 22, 2021

Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee,

My name is William Boucher and I am the interm president of the Connecticut Police and Fire Union. Our Union represents over 700 dedicated public safety professionals who are employed by the State of Connecticut.

I am submitting written testimony on the issue addressed on H.B. 6462. As you are aware, many of the provisions of the Police Accountability Act (P.A.A.), that passed during the 2020 special legislative session, are now law. An exception of this is Section 29 (Use of Force) of the P.A.A that takes effect April 1, 2021.

H.B. 6462 proposes to change the effective date under Section 29 from APRIL 1, 2021 to October 1, 2022.

As law enforcement agencies continue to discover daily operational challenges, much due in part to rushed effective dates of the P.A.A., an extension of the effective date under Section 29 will provide for more adequate time to review and prepare for the proper implementation of this section. This extension makes for better public policy.

Although there are still flaws in P.A.A., H.B. 6462 is a good first step in addressing its shortcomings.

Thank you for your time, and I urge you to pass this bill.

Sincerely,

William Boucher
Connecticut Police and Fire Union