



POACT

Police Officers Association of Connecticut

Testimony in Support of

HB 6462

AN ACT CONCERNING USE OF FORCE BY A PEACE OFFICER

Before the Judiciary Committee

February 22, 2021

Good afternoon, Chairman Winfield, Chairman Stafstrom, Senator Kissel, Representative Fishbein and Members of the Judiciary Committee,

My name is Florencio Cotto. I am a police officer in the City of New Haven and the President of the New Haven Police Union. I am also the President of the Police Officers Association of Connecticut, or POACT. POACT is a state-wide association of municipal police unions, from large cities and small towns. I am here in that capacity today representing over 4,000 police officers from Berlin, Bristol, Cheshire, Cromwell, Danbury, Greenwich, Hartford, Manchester, Milford, New Haven, Newtown, Naugatuck, Prospect, South Windsor, Southington, Stamford, Suffield, Waterbury, and West Hartford, as well as AFSCME Council 4's Public Safety Chapter.

On behalf of those police officers we strongly urge you to pass HB 6462. The changes made to the use of force statute in Public Act 20-1 of the July special session are significant. The law adds new requirements for police officers in the use of deadly force. This bill will extend the effective date of that section of the bill. The extension of the effective date is critical to allow for police officers to be fully trained. It is imperative for the safety of our officers as well as the crime victims.

The effective date should be extended out far enough to ensure that every officer is trained before they are held to the new standard. Thank you for your consideration. We urge your support.