

# Judiciary Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

**Bill No.:** SB-165

AN ACT PROVIDING IMMUNITY FROM CIVIL LIABILITY TO A PHYSICIAN WHO ACCOMPANIES AND ASSISTS A STATE, REGIONAL OR MUNICIPAL

**Title:** SWAT TEAM.

**Vote Date:** 4/4/2022

**Vote Action:** Joint Favorable

**PH Date:** 3/4/2022

**File No.:** 538

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## **SPONSORS OF BILL:**

Judiciary Committee

## **REASONS FOR BILL:**

S.B. 165 will provide legal protection to doctors who put themselves in harms way and expose themselves to civil liability. This bill protects physicians who are serving the greater good and their community, immunizing them against legal actions if anything goes wrong. This bill serves individuals who voluntarily provides medical assistance to law enforcement entities of the state, regional or municipal special weapons and tactics team (SWAT).

## **RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:**

None expressed.

## **NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:**

Senator of the Connecticut General Assembly, Rob Sampson, supports this bill. This bill extends "Good Samaritan" immunity to those physicians who provide emergency medical or professional assistance to a person affiliated with a "SWAT" team. This legislation will encourage other doctors to do the same in their communities. This bill is good public policy and promotes and preserves the innovative relationship between our medical and law enforcement communities.

## **NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:**

Policy Counsel of the American Civil Liberties Union of Connecticut, Jess Zaccagnino, opposes the bill. ACLU-CT believes that highly militarized policing should be defunded in favor of investing those funds into programs, resources, and services that create safe communities. Civil immunity to community members that work with militarized police could lead to obvious negligence being excused.

Connecticut Trial Lawyers Association, Jeff Zyjeski, opposes the bill because he believes the protections sought are redundant and are already covered under the state's Good Samaritan statute. Immunity laws like this that are redundant and unnecessary are bad policy.

**Reported by: Molly Lukiwsky**

**Date: 4/11/2022**