



Written Testimony by  
Interim President Robert Kennedy  
Board of Regents for Higher Education  
ConnSCU  
Before the Higher Education and  
Employment Advancement Committee  
February 28, 2012

Good morning, Senator Bye, Representative Willis and members of the Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee. I am unable to appear in person but would like to indicate my support for House Bill 5277, *An Act Concerning the Indemnification of University Police*. As you know, there are “special police” forces at the four-year institutions: Central, Eastern, Southern and Western Connecticut State Universities.

The State would be required to pay “reasonable legal fees and costs” incurred if the special police officer is ultimately found not to have acted in a wanton, reckless or malicious manner or no punitive damages are ultimately assessed against the officer. This proposed bill extends the same protection to these special police officers that are offered to municipal and state police officers. It is unreasonable to ask police officers to personally bear the costs of defending themselves for acts performed in good faith within the scope of their employment.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this issue and please feel free to contact Jill E. Ferraiolo, Director of Government Relations, should you have any questions.