

# Legislative History for Connecticut Act

**PA 16-90**

SB244

Senate	873-879, 931-932	9
Judiciary	1189-1191, 1201-1203, 1239-1241, 1243-1245, 1319-1329	23

House Transcripts have not been received. They are available on CGA website, but are not the Official copy. Contact House Clerk for assistance (860) 240-0400 **32**

**Transcripts from the Joint Standing Committee Public  
Hearing(s) and/or Senate and House of Representatives  
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**CONNECTICUT  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
SENATE**

**PROCEEDINGS  
2016**

**VOL. 59  
PART 3  
679 – 1032**

cf  
SENATE

195  
April 20, 2016

Those voting Yea	34
Those voting Nay	0
Those absent and not voting	2

THE CHAIR:

The Bill passes. Senator Duff.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. Madam President, if the clerk can now call calendar page 9, Calendar 274, Senate Bill 244.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk.

THE CLERK:

On Page 9, Calendar .274, Substitute for Senate Bill Number 244, AN ACT CONCERNING THE REPORTING OF INJURIES RESULTING FROM THE DISCHARGE OF A FIREARM AND STAB WOUNDS. There are amendments.

THE CHAIR:

Good evening, Senator Coleman.

SENATOR COLEMAN (2ND):

Good evening, Madam President. Madam President, I move acceptance of the Joint Committee's favorable report and passage of the bill.

THE CHAIR:

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Motions on acceptance and passage. Will you remark, sir?

SENATOR COLEMAN (2ND):

Thank you again, Madam President. The clerk should be in possession of LCO 4419. I'd have to ask that the clerk please call that Amendment.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk.

THE CLERK:

LCO Number 4419, Senate "A" offered by Senator Coleman.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Coleman.

SENATOR COLEMAN (2ND):

I move adoption of the Amendment and request permission to summarize.

THE CHAIR:

Motions on adoption. Will you -- will you continue, sir?

SENATOR COLEMAN (2ND):

Thank you, Madam President. Madam President, Senate "A" seeks to describe the kind of stab wounds that be required to be reported under the provisions of the underlying bill, and specifically, any stab

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wound that is a serious physical injury likely caused by a knife or other sharp or pointed instrument, would be required if this Amendment is adopted, would be required to be reported under the provisions of the bill. I urge my colleagues to support the Amendment.

THE CHAIR:

Will you remark? Will you remark? If not, I'll try your minds. All those in favor please say aye.

SENATORS:

Aye.

THE CHAIR:

Opposed. Senate "A" is adopted. Senator Coleman.

SENATOR COLEMAN (2ND):

Thank you, Madam President. The Bill as amended does the following:

Currently, under the law that exists today, all injuries that are -- or wounds -- that are related the discharge of firearms are required to be reported to police departments by doctors or hospitals or other health care providers. The Bill as amended would extend that requirement to stab wounds and it is primarily a question of data collection. It might trigger an investigation but not necessarily -- it might not necessarily trigger investigation, but the important part about it is the collection of the data regarding such wounds. I would urge support for the bill as amended. Thank you, Madam President.

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THE CHAIR:

Will you remark further on the bill? Will you remark further? Senator Kissel.

SENATOR KISSEL (7TH):

Thank you very much, Madam President. I just stand in support of the bill. It's a good common sense measure and it will help with law enforcement. I urge my colleagues to support the bill. Thank you.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you. Will you remark further? Senator Osten.

SENATOR OSTEN (19TH):

Thank you very much, Madam President. Madam President, just a couple questions for the proponent of the bill.

THE CHAIR:

Please proceed, sir -- ma'am.

SENATOR OSTEN (19TH):

Madam President, through you, would an injury that was a result of a blade such as a circular saw, be included in the data collection of this particular piece of legislation?

THE CHAIR:

Senator Coleman.

SENATOR COLEMAN (2ND):

Thank you, Madam President. Through you, to Senator Osten. That's a very good question. I actually don't think that the kind of blade that a circular saw represents would be the kind of injury that would be required to be reported under this legislation. The blade that's contemplated in this would be -- the blade that's contemplated in the bill as amended would be the kind of blade that would be a knife. Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Osten.

SENATOR OSTEN (19TH):

Thank you very much, Madam President. I just want to make sure that we're not bringing in home tools that have blades attached to them that often result in injuries which would trigger a possible investigation on such items as -- you know -- a scale saw, circular saws, or other home tools where people are participating in activities like making furniture or other things and I appreciate the good Senator's comments and so for legislative intent, that this is designed merely to track knife wounds and items -- injuries that happen as a result of that sort of action. Would that be true? Through you, Madam President.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Coleman.

SENATOR COLEMAN (2ND):

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Through you, Madam President, to Senator Osten. I think that would be true.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Osten.

SENATOR OSTEN (19TH):

Thank you very much.

THE CHAIR:

Thank you. Are -- are there any -- Senator Leone.

SENATOR LEONE (27TH):

Thank you, Madam President. I rise in support of the bill and I just wanted to thank the Chair of Judiciary and the ranking members and all members of the committee, for shepherding this bill through. This is an important bill for my community in the sense that it will help deter some of the activities to -- that sometimes occur and create hurdles for law enforcement to actually investigate some of the matters. It also can help prevent some domestic violence occurrences and again, this is in relations to stab wounds that could be investigated if the data were collected and this is basically about collection of the data as well. So, it puts it on par with a gunshot when those kind of incidences do occur and I urge support and again thank the chair and members of the committee for the support of this bill. Thank you.

THE CHAIR:



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Thank you. Will you remark further on the bill?  
Will you remark further on the bill? Senator  
Coleman.

SENATOR COLEMAN (2ND):

Madam President, I want to extend gratitude for  
Senator Leone and the other members of the Stamford  
Delegation for championing this bill and if there  
are no further remarks, and no objection, I would  
move that this item be placed on our Consent  
Calendar.

THE CHAIR:

Seeing no objections, so ordered, sir.

SENATOR COLEMAN (2ND):

Thank you.

THE CHAIR:

Senate will stand at ease. Senator Duff.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. Madam President, if the  
clerk can now call calendar page 9, Calendar 283,  
Senate Bill 306.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk.

THE CLERK:

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SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, and that, I believe is the end of our Consent Calendar. If the clerk can now call the items on the Consent Calendar, followed by a vote on our Consent Calendar today.

THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk. We gotta' wait two seconds to get this on, up and running, and then we will start getting the list called for you, sir.

Mr. Clerk, please call the Consent Calendar.

THE CLERK:

On page 2, Calendar 131, Senate Bill 204. Page 3, Calendar 133, Senate Bill 207. Page 3, Calendar 145, Senate Bill 132. Page 4, 180 -- Calendar 183, Senate Bill 236. Page 5, Calendar 192, Senate Bill 230. Page 6, Calendar 232, Senate Bill 254. Page 7, Calendar 243, Senate Bill 364. Page 8, Calendar 261, Senate Bill 233. Also on page 8, Calendar 254, Senate Bill 178. Page 8, Calendar 263, Senate Bill 252. Page 9, Calendar 274, Senate Bill 244. Page 9, Calendar 283, Senate Bill 306. Page 10, Calendar 294, Senate Bill 283. Also on page 10, Calendar 297, Senate Bill 372. Page 11, Calendar 302, Senate Bill 436. Page 11, Calendar 309, Senate Bill 398. Page 12, Calendar 314, Senate Bill 103. On page 23, Calendar 420, House Bill 5350. Page 27, Calendar 70, Senate Bill 72. Page 28, Calendar 87, Senate Bill 107. Page 29, Calendar 126. Senate Bill 197. Page 30, Calendar 150, Senate Bill 161. Page 32, Calendar 199, Senate Bill 20. And page 35, Calendar 270, Senate Bill 288.

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THE CHAIR:

Mr. Clerk, will you please call a roll call vote on the Consent Calendar? The machine will be open.

THE CLERK:

Immediate Roll Call has been ordered in the Senate.  
Immediate Roll Call on today's Consent Calendar has been ordered in the Senate.

THE CHAIR:

Senator Fonfara.

All members have voted, all members have voted. The machine will be closed. Mr. Clerk, will you please call the tally on the Consent Calendar?

THE CLERK:

On Today's Consent Calendar.

Total number voting	35
Necessary for Adoption	18
Those voting Yea	35
Those voting Nay	0
Those absent and not voting	1

THE CHAIR:

The Consent Calendar passes. Senator Duff.

SENATOR DUFF (25TH):

Thank you, Madam President. Madam President, does the clerk have Senate Agenda Number 2 on his desk?

**JOINT  
STANDING  
COMMITTEE  
HEARINGS**

**JUDICIARY  
PART 3  
902 – 1382**

**2016**

REP. TONG (147TH): Mayor David Martin. Good afternoon.

MAYOR MARTIN: Good afternoon.

REP. TONG (147TH): You're lookin' fit as a fiddle.

MAYOR MARTIN: I apologize here, I'm tryin' out for a part -- a brother of Frankenstein. My -- as many of you probably know, I was in surgery last Friday and I am still recovering from that, as you can see. I advise you two things -- if you see something odd on your skin, get to your dermatologist and it might save your life, as it will save mine. I am fine. And secondly, wear sunscreen. It'll make a difference. But I'm gonna' be fine, it does hurt and I don't like wearing glasses, so I apologize if I get a little bit discombobulated up here, but -- in any event, it's -- it's for me, a pleasure, Representative Tong, Senator Coleman, that you guys have made a special effort to come down to Stamford.

Yes, I cannot recall any committee coming down to Stamford other than the Education Committee which was like 10 years ago, and it's deeply appreciated. I've come to recognize that every community in this great state is unique and I appreciate you coming down to recognize and hear some of the uniqueness of our community, which is different than any of the other larger municipalities and is different than -- than any of the other communities in Lower Fairfield County and I just have to say thank you as well to ranking member Rebimbas -- did I say that right?

REP. REBIMBAS (70TH): You did.

MAYOR MARTIN: Thank you, and of course, it's good to see that you've got Representative Fox and Simmons workin' hard here, I appreciate that as well. So, if I may, I actually am the Mayor of

SB244  
SB246  
HB5403  
HB5364  
SB245  
HB5400

Stamford and I actually wanted to speak to six of the items on your agenda.

I will take them one at a time. The testimony is rather short on each one, but I understand that it'll be a little bit time consuming to handle all six.

First, Senate Bill 244, AN ACT CONCERNING THE REPORTING OF INJURIES RESULTING FROM THE DISCHARGE OF A FIREARM AND STAB WOUNDS. This bill would make the mandatory reporting of stab wounds the same as reporting the wound from a firearm. When there's an incident involving a firearm, chances are, there's a need for a criminal investigation, which is why we have a mandatory reporting for firearm wounds. Along those same lines, stab wounds are often also the result of criminal activity and should also be investigated. But without a law like this, they often go underreported, and in Stamford there are certain communities that tend to use knives as -- more than they use guns and we have had some situations where there were wounds that were treated but not reported that later came back into criminal investigations. So, what happens is the reporting of a stab or even a firearm, sometimes those wounds is sometimes the only way that law enforcement knows that a criminal act has taken place. To keep the reporting as effective and simple as possible, we don't want there to be one set of rules for reporting a firearm incident and a different set of rules for reporting a stab wound. We think they should be the same, and therefore, we don't think the immunity portion in the bill that was -- was written in is necessary and I would note that there have been few, if any, instances where any hospital's reluctance to meet the requirements of firearm reporting on the statute because of fear or liability or of any action has been brought against

a hospital or their staff for negligence reporting under the section statutes. So, we would prefer that that immunity section be removed so that when you see a stab wound, you see a firearm wound, it's reported to the local police to determine if there needs to be a followup investigation and that's the first item I'd like to support.

And if there be no questions, I'm happy to move on to Senate Bill 246 --

REP. TONG (147TH): I think if you just run through your testimony, then we'll pose some questions.

MAYOR MARTIN: If you -- that -- that -- whichever way you prefer, Chairman.

Senate Bill 246, AN ACT CONCERNING THE ZERO TOLERANCE SAFE SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT ACT, which we were just talking about. It was on February 19, around 12:30, there was a bomb threat called in to Stamford High School, here in Stamford. Almost 40 police officers were called to the scene, supported with both Stamford and State Police Bomb sniffing dogs. Several fire and EMS teams also responded and were put on standby in case this was a true emergency. We also had command staff, of course.

Around 1700 students and 200 school staff were evacuated and eventually sent home. Needless to say, there was an enormous traffic and transportation issue that installed as well. And I note something that is often forgotten. We spend about \$140,000 a day at Stamford High School to provide education. We just -- wasted that money. Just thrown out the window. And that -- so that's in addition to the direct emergency costs, which are perhaps not \$100,000 when you add it all up, but it's -- it's significant.

-- and I see that in pedestrian areas -- I see it when kids try and cross the street to get to school -- you see it when you drive around Stamford -- and I think more and more communities are starting to see it and -- you know, we passed a -- a vulnerable users bill a couple of years ago -- we're still struggling to get that implemented in a meaningful way. So, I just want to say thank you for lending your voice to this issue, thank you for showing leadership here in the city and trying to do your part. It is the three-fold effort of education, engineering, and enforcement. We need to get all three of those things right and the enforcement component of this is oftentimes the -- the least popular, but it is a necessary component of this, if we're actually going to change driver behaviors, if we're going to reclaim our communities, and we're all going to build these walkable, safe neighborhoods for our -- for our family members. So thank you for coming in.

MAYOR MARTIN: Thank you. If you don't mind, I'll plagiarize some of that for my next testimony that I give on this item. [laughter]

REP. LEMAR (96TH): Sounds great.

REP. TONG (147TH): Further questions. Yeah.  
Senator Coleman.

SENATOR COLEMAN (2ND): Thank you. Good afternoon, Mr. Mayor.

MAYOR MARTIN: Thank you.

SENATOR COLEMAN (2ND): I just wanted to make sure that I heard and understood your testimony correctly -- particularly in connection with Senate Bill 244. Were you advocating for the removal or elimination of the immunity section in that bill?



MAYOR MARTIN: Yes.

SENATOR COLEMAN (2ND): And would you elaborate for me?

MAYOR MARTIN: You know, we would prefer to have stab wounds reported -- well, stab wounds aren't reported at all right now -- or required. We would prefer that in -- and if -- and if -- and if in your judgement of the legislature, it goes with immunity, we would -- we would prefer to have it in with immunity. But we believe it overly complicates the situation. You do not have that immunity cause when you have reporting of a fire arm, and we believe that that immunity cause creates further complication. We also believe that there will be groups that will oppose that immunity thing and therefore, stall the bill. But I look to your judgement and what you can get passed because we need more than we've got now.

SENATOR COLEMAN (2ND): So your position is based upon considerations of what would be easier to get the bill through the process?

MAYOR MARTIN: It's partly based on that, but clearly you have more knowledge about that. I'm thinking in terms of within the -- the reporters -- the hospital, etcetera. I want to make things as simple -- listen, we'll try to make things as simple as possible, and you know how complex they can get, so if we can have one rule for firearms and stab wounds, rather than on firearms, this is the rule but on stab wounds it's a different rule, you know, that becomes a full employment act for training and a full employment for lawyers, later on down the road, I think it's better to remove that immunity section of the bill. But, you know, we'll take what we can get.

SENATOR COLEMAN (2ND): So, can I further understand your position is based on consistency between how firearm discharges are treated and stab wounds are treated?

MAYOR MARTIN: Yes.

SENATOR COLEMAN (2ND): Okay. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

REP. TONG (147TH): Representative Simmons.

REP. SIMMONS (144TH): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you, Mr. Mayor, for taking the time to come testify today on these bills, particularly with regard to the bill on increasing penalties for failing to yield to pedestrians at crosswalks.

HB 5403

I wanted to get your perspective in light of the two incidents, the one we heard about this morning from Sharon Aks and her friend, Mr. Goldsmith that were struck at the crosswalk as well as the tragic incident that happened with Jimmy Goldsmith on Vine -- the corner of Vine Road and High Ridge Road in January when he was hit and killed in Stamford. Do you think that this bill will help prevent future accidents like that and is there anything else we can do at the state level to try to crack down on all the speeding and pedestrians that are being struck all across the state?

MAYOR MARTIN: Well, if you give me a list of what I want, I want -- you know -- \$30 million to change a lot of crosswalks and pedestrian intersections and light systems and all that sort of stuff -- and I don't have that money. So, you ask and you know, we have to do a lot of work in Stamford and -- and -- and I think as many of the other members of the committee well know, Stamford has the highest daytime population of any city in the state. It's heavily crowded in and we have at the same time, a

capacities -- wants to be dealing with the issues that we've dealt with here in Stamford, and so I think that's -- I -- I would imagine you're going to get broad support from your volunteer Board of Education members on this.

REP. TONG (147TH): Further questions. Thank you.

JEFF ALSWANGER: Thank you very much. Thank you all.

REP. TONG (147TH): Stamford's finest, please. Chief of Police Fontneau, Ted Jankowski, and Captain Conklin. Thank you for your patience. I had to let the Mayor go first. [laughter]

TED JANKOWSKI: Good afternoon Senator Coleman, Representative Tong, Senator Kissel, Representative Rebimbas, and distinguished members of the judiciary committee. My name is Thaddeus Jankowski, and I am the Director of Public Safety in the City of Stamford.

SB 246

With me, as Representative Tong had introduced -- Police Chief Jonathan Fontneau, and our Commander of our Bureau of Investigations, Captain Richard Conklin.

On behalf of the City of Stamford, the Stamford Police Department, and for the protection of victims of stab wounds, we wish to ask for your support of proposed Bill number 244, AN ACT CONCERNING THE REPORTING OF INJURIES RESULTING FROM THE DISCHARGE OF A FIREARM AND STAB WOUNDS. Sometimes a health care provider treats a patient for an injury or illness such as a stab wound that suggests a violent crime has occurred.

Law enforcement may not be aware of these situations unless someone tells them. The proposed amendment is necessary to expand current reporting procedures

for stab wounds to local police departments and/or the State Police to enhance victim safety by enabling law enforcement timely responses to these potentially high risk incidents.

Stab wounds are inflicted at a much greater rate than a gunshot wounds and may occur because of intentional violence or through self-infliction. Reporting a stab wound may prevent further injury to the victim in a hospital or outpatient facility and will provide victims the support and interventions needed to be protected from further harm.

Not only will reporting give police information about a suspected crime but also will engage victim service programs that can provide additional support and safety planning. We are not advocating for physicians to become crime fighters. We are interested in public safety and injury prevention.

Healthcare professionals will not have to make any determination of a wound being criminal in nature. That is the responsibility of the police and other components of the criminal justice system.

As the Director of Public Safety for the City of Stamford, I respectfully urge you to support and adopt Bill 244 to provide the same reporting requirements for stab wounds as that for a bullet wound, a gunshot wound, or any injury arising from the discharge of a firearm.

To summarize, here in Stamford, we have a population that we see a lot of incidents of domestic violence and we also see a large immigrant population and they are afraid to -- to report. So the approval of Bulletin 244 will ensure law enforcement response, provide protections for victims as required, and access victims to victim service programs for additional support and safety planning.

Victims of stab wounds need and deserve our full support. I'm also here -- we are also here -- in support of Bill number 246. On behalf of the City of Stamford, the Stamford Police Department, First Responders, and for the safety of students, staff and individuals in the school environment and Connecticut residents, we ask you to support proposed Bill number 246, AN ACT CONCERNING THE ZERO-TOLERANCE SAFE SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT ACT.

Recently there have been several threats to schools in the City of Stamford that prompted evacuations and the emergency response of Police, Fire, and EMS. These types of threats appear to have the intent of creating terror, fear, and injury, and are becoming more common throughout the state and the nation.

These malicious events threaten the safety of all those in the school environment, our first responders, as well as residents and individuals who utilize Connecticut streets. Students, teachers, and all those in the school environment are put at risk during the emergency response events and evacuation and all lock down creates panic and fear for all those in this environment.

There is a risk of injury to individuals evacuating and events like these can have a traumatic effect on students and staff.

These threats have needlessly caused panic in the school environment and can cause injury as well as anxiety and fear to all those involved.

Each of these events also triggers large scale emergency response comprised mostly of law enforcement officers and other first responder resources. These type of events are of a long duration as police have to ensure the safety of students and teachers by making sure that the school

REP. TONG (147TH): Sure.

RICHARD CONKLIN: Senator Coleman, Representative Tong, Senator Kissel, Representative Rebinbas, and members of the Judiciary Committee. My name is Richard Conklin and I am Commander of the Stamford Police Department Bureau of Criminal Investigations. Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today to testify in favor of Bill 244, AN ACT CONCERNING THE REPORTING OF INJURIES RESULTING FROM THE DISCHARGE OF A FIREARM AND STAB WOUNDS.

This is an important bill for the community and law enforcement. It must be mandated that stab wounds be reported to law enforcement. There are many victims that are reluctant to report stab wounds. These victims include but are not limited to, domestic violence victims, victims with concerns regarding their immigration status, victims that have attempted suicide or harmed themselves, victims that are wanted or fugitives, and victims that are intoxicated or under the influence of narcotics.

One of the most important reasons why timely reporting of stab wounds is so crucial is the collection and preservation of evidence and identification of witnesses. Crucial evidence will often be destroyed or lost if not collected in a timely fashion. For victims who present themselves at an emergency care location, it is important to identify and safeguard crime scenes until they can be processed.

At emergency care locations, wounds must be documented and photographed. Clothing that has puncture and slash damage must be collected and preserved as important evidence.

The reporting of gunshot wounds has been mandatory, and it has served the community well. It should be

noted that stab wounds occur far more frequently than gunshot wounds. Support of this bill would provide law enforcement with another tool to help ensure public safety.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to speak to you about this bill.

REP. TONG (147TH): Thank you, all three of you. Questions. Senator McLachlan.

SENATOR MCLACHLAN (24TH): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you gentleman for your patience and -- and for your advocacy on behalf of these bills.

SB246

I wonder if you could comment on previous questions you may have heard me ask about the perpetrators, and finding the perpetrators in the phone calls to schools? Is law enforcement technology catching up with the technology that these perpetrators are employing?

RICHARD CONKLIN: Right now we're working with the FBI on these events that occurred in Stamford and to date, no.

SENATOR MCLACHLAN (24TH): Thank you. So we have a little work to do there.

RICHARD CONKLIN: Sure do.

REP. TONG (147TH): Further questions. We have a -- I'm sorry. Senator Coleman.

SENATOR COLEMAN (2ND): Just out of curiosity, related to Bill 244, is there a policy within the Stamford Police Department that requires the reporting of a discharge of a firearm whether or not an injury occurs?

RICHARD CONKLIN: There's an internal policy correct for the police department.

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## JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

March 2, 2016  
1:00 PM

SENATOR COLEMAN (2ND): Okay, and -- under this bill, under 244 -- would it be the victims that would be required to report a stab wound or a hospital or physician that treats the --

RICHARD CONKLIN: [interposing] We're looking for the treating parties to notify the police department so it doesn't go on unforeseen.

SENATOR COLEMAN (2ND): Okay. Thank -- that's all I have, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

REP. TONG (147TH): Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I -- I should also note that there's another bill before the committee that also relates to crime by technology or you know, the challenge for all of us to catch up to technology and -- and that is people who call you on the phone and try to scam you by saying either the IRS has commenced litigation against you or what's even scarier -- is when people call Seniors and say, you know, your grandson's been injured, they give a couple a biographical details about the grandson, 'cause they somehow have access to that information and then say, please go down to the store and buy prepaid cards with money on them and send them to us and -- so we can help your grandson out.

(HB 5635)

This is -- actually, my poor mother has been scammed in this way -- so, it's -- it -- it -- you know, we struggled to catch up and -- and what's really crazy is that on scams like that -- like the phone scam, they'll leave a phone number and you can even call them back and -- engage them but the ability to then identify who they are, track them, and get after them -- is a whole 'nother challenge entirely, because of technology, so -- we appreciate your testimony and any thoughts or suggestions you have on how we can catch up, I think is always welcome.





**TESTIMONY OF  
CONNECTICUT HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION  
SUBMITTED TO THE  
JUDICIARY COMMITTEE  
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2, 2016**

**SB 244, An Act Concerning The Reporting Of Injuries Resulting From The  
Discharge Of A Firearm And Stab Wounds**

The Connecticut Hospital Association (CHA) appreciates this opportunity to submit testimony concerning SB 244, An Act Concerning The Reporting Of Injuries Resulting From The Discharge Of A Firearm And Stab Wounds. CHA supports the bill and seeks further clarification as described below.

Before commenting on the bill, it's important to point out that Connecticut hospitals provide core healthcare services to all of the people in Connecticut, 24 hours a day, regardless of ability to pay. Connecticut hospitals offer safe, accessible, equitable, affordable, patient-centered care that protects and improves peoples' lives.

CHA is concerned that the mandatory reporting of any stab wound will result in the reporting of routine lacerations, inconsequential injuries, or accidental stab wounds. On the other hand, there may be other knife injuries that are significant, but may not be a stab wound, which is a specific form of penetrating trauma that results from a knife or similar pointed object. We recommend that the phrase "or a stab wound" in the proposed bill be replaced by the following phrase: or any injury or wound that is likely to or may result in death from weapons such as blades, knives, or similar objects. This is the approach adopted in states such as New York.

Thank you for your consideration of our position. For additional information, contact CHA Government Relations at (203) 294-7310.



150 Trumbull Street, 2nd Floor  
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[www.cttriallawyers.org](http://www.cttriallawyers.org)

Raised Bill 244  
Public Hearing: 3-2-16

TO: MEMBERS OF THE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE  
FROM: CONNECTICUT TRIAL LAWYERS ASSOCIATION (CTLA)  
DATE: MARCH 2, 2016

RE: **OPPOSITION TO SUBSECTION (d) of SB244, AAC THE REPORTING OF INJURIES  
RESULTING FROM THE DISCHARGE OF A FIREARM AND STAB WOUNDS**

CTLA, while supportive of the reporting of injuries resulting from the discharge of a firearm and stab wounds, opposes subsection (d) of this bill because it creates immunities from liability for reasonable actions that would never create liability in the first place. Further, the bill would create an unreasonable expansion of our immunity laws, which are only extended where there is some broad overarching public benefit. While there is a great public benefit to the requirements of this bill, there does not seem to be a commensurate public benefit to the extension of the immunity contemplated.

The law seeking to be amended has been in place since 1993 and we are unaware of a single case where a lawsuit has been brought for following the reporting requirements currently mandated. We are also unaware of any lack of reporting out of fear of liability. The expansion of the law to include stab wounds, and further outline what needs to be included in such a report and what needs to be preserved will not create any new liability.

We respectfully request that stab wounds be added to the current statute without the immunity found in subsection (d) of this bill.

Immunity in Connecticut has been reserved for a very few instances. The actions covered by this bill do not fit within those limitations. Nothing about the existing law has deterred reporting injuries resulting from the discharge of a firearm since the reporting requirement was passed into law over twenty-two years ago. Adding stab wounds and further collection requirements to the reporting does not change that fact. The CTLA respectfully contends that the immunity found in subsection (d) of this proposal is unnecessary and against public policy.

**WE URGE YOU TO OPPOSE SUBSECTION (d) of SB244. Thank you.**

MAYOR  
DAVID R. MARTIN



THADDEUS K. JANKOWSKI, DIRECTOR  
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**Testimony of Thaddeus K. Jankowski, Director of Public Safety, Health & Welfare  
Support of Bill 244, An Act Concerning The Reporting Of Injuries Resulting From The Discharge Of A  
Firearm And Stab Wounds  
March 2, 2016**

Good afternoon Senator Coleman, Representative Tong, Senator Kissel, Representative Rebimbas and distinguished members of the Judiciary Committee. My name is Thaddeus Jankowski and I am the Director of Public Safety in the City of Stamford.

On behalf of the City of Stamford, the Stamford Police Department and for the protection of victims of stab wounds we wish to ask for your SUPPORT of Proposed S.B. No. 244 – An Act Concerning the Reporting of Injuries Resulting From the Discharge Of A Firearm and Stab Wounds.

Sometimes a health care provider treats a patient for an injury or illness, such as a stab wound that suggests a violent crime has occurred. Law enforcement may not be aware of these situations unless someone tells them. The proposed amendment is necessary to expand current reporting procedures for stab wounds to local police departments and/or the state police to enhance victim safety by enabling law enforcement timely responses to these potentially high risk incidents.

Stab wounds are inflicted at a much greater rate than gunshot wounds and may occur because of intentional violence or through self-infliction. Reporting a stab wound may prevent further injury to the victim in a hospital or outpatient facility and will provide victims the supports and interventions needed to be protected from further harm. Not only will reporting give police information about a suspected crime but also will engage victim service programs that can provide additional support and safety planning.

We are not advocating for physicians to become crime fighters, we are interested in public safety and injury prevention. Health care professionals will not have to make any determination of a wound being criminal in nature – that is the responsibility for the police and other components of the criminal justice system.

As the Director of Public Safety for the City of Stamford, I respectfully urge you to support and adopt SB 244 to provide the same reporting requirements for stab wounds as that for a bullet wound, a gunshot wound or any injury arising from the discharge of a firearm. The approval of SB 244 will ensure a law enforcement response; provide protections for victims as required and access for

victims to victim service programs for additional support and safety planning. Victims of stab wounds need and deserve our full support.

Respectfully,

Thaddeus K. Jankowski  
Director of Public Safety, Health & Welfare

**Juduser**

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**From:** Sbona, Lori <Sbona@chime.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 02, 2016 1:33 PM  
**To:** JudTestimony  
**Cc:** Iacobellis, James; Cournoyer, Brian; Buckley, Karen; Schiessl, Carl J.  
**Subject:** Testimony from the Connecticut Hospital Association (SB-244) for the hearing Wednesday, March 2, 2016  
**Attachments:** FINAL SB 244 AAC The Reporting Of Injuries Resulting From The Discharge Of A Firearm...CJS.pdf

Good afternoon,

Attached, please find testimony for SB 244 from the Connecticut Hospital Association for the Judiciary Committee hearing on Wednesday, March 2, 2016.

Please confirm that you received and are able to open the attached testimony.

Thank you,  
Lori

Lori Sbona  
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TheCutsNow

[www.StopTheCutsNow.org](http://www.StopTheCutsNow.org)

**SENATOR CARLO LEONE**  
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**State of Connecticut**

**SENATE**

*Twenty-seventh District*

*Chair*  
 General Bonding Subcommittee  
 General Law Committee  
*Vice Chair*  
 Finance, Revenue & Bonding Committee  
 Transportation Committee

***TESTIMONY OF STATE SENATOR CARLO LEONE ON SB 244: An Act Concerning the Reporting of Injuries Resulting from the Discharge of a Firearm and Stab Wounds***

Senator Coleman, Representative Tong, and honorable members of the Judiciary Committee, my name is State Senator Carlo Leone and I am testifying today in support of SB 244: "An Act Concerning the Reporting of Injuries Resulting from the Discharge of a Firearm and Stab Wounds."

This bill would make the mandatory reporting of stab wounds the same as reporting a wound from a firearm. In some cases, an individual will seek medical treatment but law enforcement has not been made aware that there has been an incident resulting in a wound. The mandatory reporting of these wounds provides law enforcement with the ability to then investigate the incident that they may not have otherwise known about.

Secondly this bill clearly lays out the procedure for mandatory reporting and how to maintain evidence that may help law enforcement in their investigation so there is no question about how to report.

Lastly the language in this bill provides employees who are making a good faith effort to report the wound immunity from civil or criminal liability. This is important because there may be a fear associated with reporting a wound and any future ramifications, and the language here would prevent any of those ramifications. We want employees to report firearm and stab wounds and protecting them from any liability may make it easier for them to report.

Please help us pass SB 244. Thank you for your consideration.

MAYOR  
DAVID R. MARTIN



CHIEF OF POLICE  
JONATHAN FONTNEAU

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Captain Richard Conklin – Stamford Police Department  
Judiciary Committee  
Public Hearing  
March 2, 2016  
Bill #244

An Act Concerning the reporting of Injuries Resulting from Discharge of a Firearm and Stab Wounds.

Senator Coleman, Representative Tong, Senator Kissel, Representative Rebimbas and members of the Judiciary Committee. My name is Richard Conklin and I am the Commander of the Stamford Police Bureau of Criminal Investigations. Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today to testify in favor of Bill #244, An Act Concerning the Reporting of Injuries Resulting From the Discharge Of A Firearm and Stab Wounds.

This is an important bill for the community and law enforcement. It must be mandated that stab wounds be reported to law enforcement.

There are many victims that are reluctant to report stab wounds. These victims include, but are not limited to domestic violence victims, victims with concerns regarding immigration status, victims that have attempted suicide or harmed themselves, victims that are wanted or fugitives, and victims that are intoxicated or under the influence of narcotics.

One of the most important reasons why the timely reporting of stab wounds is so crucial is the collection and preservation of evidence and the identification of witnesses.

Crucial evidence will often be destroyed or lost if not collected in a timely fashion. For victims who present themselves at emergency care location it is important to identify and safe guard crime scenes until they can be processed.

At emergency care locations, wounds must be documented and photographed. Clothing that has puncture and slash damage must be collected and preserved as important evidence.

The reporting of gunshot wounds has been mandatory, and has served the community well. It should be noted that stab wounds occur far more frequently than gunshot wounds.

Support of this bill would provide law enforcement with another tool to help ensure public safety.

Respectfully,



Captain Richard J. Conklin

Commander Stamford Police Department Bureau of Criminal Investigations



## Connecticut College of Emergency Physicians

### Support for SB 244, An Act Concerning the Reporting of Injuries Resulting from the Discharge of a Firearm and Stab Wounds

Judiciary Committee  
March 2, 2015

The Connecticut College of Emergency Physicians (CCEP) supports SB 244, an Act Concerning the Reporting of Injuries Resulting from the Discharge of a Firearm and Stab Wounds, with recommended amendments. As the primary providers of care for traumatic injuries we recommend the following additions/changes be made to the proposed language. We propose clarification as to definition of "stab wound" as proposed as follows.

- 1) Does stab wound refer to knife wounds only or does it include all penetrating wounds made by any instrument?
- 2) Is there a definition for size/depth of wound and whether it is a potentially life or limb threatening wound?
- 3) Nature of injury must be defined; is the wound self-inflicted or resultant from an altercation?
- 4) Is the wound accidental or intentional?

We feel that these definitions must be included in any proposed legislative language as failure to define these terms would lead to the requirement to report an enormous number of injuries. Under the strict language proposed police notification would be required for accidental household injuries, minor wounds and wounds incurred related to mental health issues. While the intent of this bill is obviously to provide protection for reporters of violent injuries, for which we are appreciative, and improve the notification of law enforcement authorities, strict definitions must be offered as "stab wound" is a broad category of injury.

As always, CCEP stands committed to providing the highest quality of health care to our citizens and to providing support and advice to the legislature.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Zanker, M.D.  
Legislative Chair  
Connecticut College of Emergency Physicians

DAVID R. MARTIN  
MAYOR  
CITY OF STAMFORD, CONNECTICUT



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## Judiciary Committee Public Hearing

March 2, 2016

Testimony of David Martin, Mayor of Stamford, regarding:

- An Act Concerning The Reporting of Injuries Resulting From the Discharge of a Firearm and Stab Wounds (SB244)
- An Act Concerning The Zero-Tolerance Safe School Environment Act (SB246)
- An Act Increasing Penalties for Failure to Yield to Pedestrians in Crosswalks and Failure to Exercise Due Care to Avoid Hitting A Pedestrian or Cyclist (HB5403)
- An Act Concerning The Filing of Workers' Compensation Claims When A Municipality Is The Employer (HB5364)
- An Act Concerning Municipal Recovery of Moneys Paid on Behalf of Displaced Tenants (SB245)
- An Act Concerning The Disclosure Of Certain Education Personnel Records (HB5400)

Good Afternoon Senator Coleman, Representative Tong, Senator Kissel, Representative Rebimbas and members of the Judiciary Committee. Thank you for holding a public hearing today in Stamford to allow my Administration and Stamford residents to testify on a number of bills that affect Stamford. I am going to speak about a few bills that will benefit the City and residents of Stamford.

- **Senate Bill 244, An Act Concerning The Reporting Of Injuries Resulting From The Discharge Of A Firearm And Stab Wounds**

This bill would make the mandatory reporting of stab wounds the same as reporting a wound from a firearm. When there is an incident involving a firearm, chances are that there is a need for a criminal investigation, which is why we have a mandatory reporting law for firearm wounds. Along those same lines, a stab wound is often the result of criminal activity and should be investigated, but without this law that would often go unreported. The reporting of a stab or firearm wound is sometimes the only way law enforcement knows that a criminal act has taken place.

To keep reporting as effective and simple as possible, we don't want there to be one set of rules for reporting a firearm wound and a different set of rules for a stab wound. Therefore, we don't think that the immunity portion of this bill is necessary. There have been few, if any instances where any hospital's reluctance to meet the requirements of the current statute because of a fear of liability or any action that has been brought against a hospital or their staff for negligence in reporting under this section of the statutes.