



New England Coalition of Public Safety
40 Willard Street, Suite 301
Quincy, MA 02169

May 10, 2011

The Honorable Stephen Brewer
Chairman, Way and Means Committee
State House
Room 212
Boston, MA 02133

RE: SO1182

Dear Senator Brewer,

As the President of the New England Coalition of Public Safety, a labor organization dedicated exclusively to representing law enforcement officers, public safety officers and support personnel employed by private colleges, universities and hospitals, I want to personally thank you for sponsoring SO1182. As you are aware, this bill would allow Special State Police Officers the right to carry their weapons in Massachusetts Courthouses.

The New England Coalition of Public Safety and all of our locals strongly support your legislation and will work hard to secure its passage. It's all about accountability, fairness and public safety and we are committed to seeing it through.

Private University, College and Hospital Police Officers hold the designation of "Special State Police Officers" as found in the Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 22c, Section 63. These officers have the same powers of arrest as municipal and state police officers for any criminal offense committed in or upon lands or structures owned, used or occupied by such university, college or other institution or hospitals. With this legislation, our officers will have the ability to respond rapidly in the protection of the public with the use of their firearms as it pertains to the use of force continuum. The officers would have all necessary tools needed to deescalate a situation or protect bystanders should there be an imminent threat to life.

More importantly, Courthouse personnel do not have the proper training in the handling of firearms. The lack of safety clearing barrels in the courthouse pose another danger to the public, as the officers cannot properly clear and inspect a firearm before transferring

their firearm to another person. This danger increases and involves the civilian public when the firearm is un-holstered in the hallway of a courthouse.

We would deeply appreciate your support and look forward to working with you. If you need any more information, please don't hesitate to contact me.

With best wishes,

Peter McCarron, President
New England Coalition of Public Safety
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