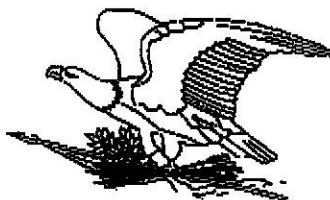


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February 20th, 2008

Pennsylvania House Judiciary Committee
State Capitol
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

RE: HB466

Dear Committee Members

I just learned there are public hearings scheduled for consideration of the above house bill in granting additional investigative authority and arrest powers to the Commonwealth's Sheriffs and their deputies. I am in support of the Bill and I do write with some authority as I am the attorney who successfully argued for the defendant in the case of Commonwealth v. Dobbins before the Pennsylvania State Supreme Court, decided November 20th, 2007. I have not seen the actual bill but I understand from Representative Matt Baker that the Bill would grant 2,500 sheriffs and deputies with the authority to make arrest and do criminal investigations within the Commonwealth provided they have the equivalent training as state and municipal police officers. It is ironic that in the Dobbins case, all sheriffs deputies involved did possess the Act 120 police officers training as mandated by the local sheriff, Steve Evans, however the Supreme Court simply saw it as a lack of legislative authority in suppressing all evidence obtained by the deputies.

I do realize there are some pockets of opposition, maybe over turf wars, but the bottom line is, there is no legitimate reason not to pass this legislation. With the ever increasing crime rate, mostly drug related, the citizens of the Commonwealth deserve and demand the extra protection. In the late 1960s when I was a young Pennsylvania State Policeman on the northern border in Bradford County, I recall there was similar

opposition to the Chemung County, New York Sheriff's department starting investigative functions. They all learned to co-exist and the citizens were the winners.

Thank you for your consideration of this opinion.

Sincerely



Robert G. Fleury, Esq.