

Good morning Chairman Krieger, Chairman Pippy, and members of the House Judiciary and Senate Law and Justice Committees. I am Colonel Frank Noonan, Commissioner of the Pennsylvania State Police. With me today is the Deputy Commissioner of Operations, Lt. Colonel George Bivens.

As you are aware, the Pennsylvania State Police is facing some of the most challenging decisions in years due to these difficult economic times. Directly impacted is the critical need to properly staff and equip our department. As a reference, the legislative complement cap is 4,310 members, exclusive of those assigned to Pennsylvania Turnpike and Bureau of Gaming Enforcement, bringing the actual complement to 4,677. At the end of April of this year, there were 430 vacancies from these enlisted ranks. By the time the current collective bargaining contract expires this June, over 1,000 Troopers will be eligible to retire.

I have already made some difficult decisions regarding these circumstances. And, I want to thank Governor Corbett for his generous support of 115 State Police Cadets to begin training in June of this year. However, I cannot afford to stop planning for the future. I appreciate the opportunity again to discuss these concerns and would be glad to answer any questions you may have regarding the current status of our planning.