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November 18, 2011

Senator Thomas M. McGee
Representative William M. Straus
Chairmen
Joint Committee on Transportation
State House, Room 134
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Chairman McGee, Chairman Straus and Distinguished Members:

On behalf of the Massachusetts Fraternal Order of Police, I write today to urge favorable action on **Senate Bill-1798**, the so-called "Molly's Bill". This bill which was heard in your committee on October 19, 2011 would direct the Registrar of Motor Vehicles to develop, design and implement a redesigned registration plate for vehicles registered in the Commonwealth. The redesigned plates would contain no more than 4 alpha-numeric characters that would be coupled with an easily recognized symbol.

Clearly, from a law enforcement prospective, the Massachusetts FOP believes this concept is long overdue for our state and would be a God-send to police investigations. It would provide dramatic enhancement for the recognition and recall of registration numbers of vehicles that may be used in the commission of a crime. More importantly utilization of this concept can reduce vehicle searches from 1 in 4,300 for standard 6 character plates to 1 in 123 for the new designed plates.

We are also given to understand that implementation of this concept of redesigned register plates can actually generate additional revenue.

We are proud to join with the Bish Family and the Smart Family as well as other police groups in supporting **SB-1798**, "Molly's Bill".

We respectfully ask that the committee discharge the bill with a favorable recommendation and work with law enforcement throughout Massachusetts in ensuring final passage during this Legislative Session.

As always, we thank you for your consideration of this important bill and we stand ready to answer any questions or concerns you may have.

Sincerely,

Chief Edward M. Merrick, Jr(ret)
Dir, Government Affairs