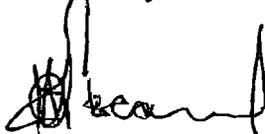


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Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee,

I am submitting this written testimony today in opposition to Raised Bill #5818, AN ACT CONCERNING LOST OR STOLEN FIREARMS. My opposition is simply because, after reading the language in the proposed legislation, I see NOTHING that protects the law - abiding citizen from prosecution in the event he / she is away for an extended period of time, and has their firearms stolen. How can you hold me responsible if I'm on vacation, and not around? Would I now be required to bring them with me? We all know that would be an unreasonable request, being that the transfer of some firearms across other state lines is illegal. I keep all of mine locked up in a 360 lb. gun cabinet, but that is not insurance that someone couldn't or wouldn't break into my home while I'm away and with help, pilfer it. And what if I'm hospitalized for an extended period? Would a law enforcement official come there and arrest me, pulling me out of bed and taking me down to the local station for booking? And what of the "straw buyer", who would buy a firearm, turn around and sell it to someone illegally, and then immediately report it stolen? It would appear that this would exempt this individual from prosecution. I see nothing in the text of the Bill that addresses this scenario.

In closing, I do hope you consider my testimony when making your vote on this issue. I think that the idea of what is trying to be accomplished here is good, but it is not addressed correctly. The language needs a MAJOR overhaul to be more palatable to the law - abiding residents of Connecticut who currently own firearms. I would welcome any questions that you may have for me, and I thank you for taking the time to read and consider my testimony.



Geoff Viscount