

Dear Co-Chair State Senator Gayle Slossberg, Co-Chair State Representative James Field, and Ladies and gentlemen of the Government Administration and Election Committee, my name is Philip Cypher. I reside in Plymouth, CT and I am an Executive Member of the Connecticut Citizens Defense League (CCDL). I am here in opposition to proposed Governor's Bill #28 being heard today.

The Board of Firearms Permit Examiners was established in 1967 under *Statutory authority* (CGS Section 29-32b). This board operates with only one (1) part time and one (1) full time employee both being secretaries, the rest of the seven (7) members are there voluntarily at no cost to the tax payers. On the other hand, the Department of Public Safety consists wholly of paid employees of the state that are already overwhelmed with permits and renewals. How will they handle the additional work load? I see only taking Officers out of where they are needed: enforcing the laws - or there will need to be people hired to man this "new" board. Where is the funding for these employees coming from? Our tax dollars! Reducing our State Budget by this elimination is clearly overstated.

The DPS has a long history of anti-gun legislation and actions over the years. Police arrest law abiding citizens for laws they "think" should be on the law book. Such examples include unlawful open carry of a firearm which IS allowed by CGS-29-35(a) or when they can't come up with a REAL violation, Breach of Peace CGS 53a-181. These actions already show a blase attitude about enforcing laws pertaining to firearms. Local authorities over reach by the asking of "extras" when applying for a Permit To Carry, such as photographs not required by Connecticut law, amongst many other examples. How is the DPS to be trusted to act as a neutral authority when they have shown time and again their antipathy towards law abiding citizens exercising their Second Amendment Right under The United States Constitution and under Article 1: Section 15 of the Connecticut Constitution? The history of the DPS has shown that it continually over-reaches their authority, we must keep the BFPE as it stands. Please reject Governor's Bill #28. Thank you.