



CCDL, Inc.  
PO Box 642  
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www.ccdl.us

## **Connecticut Citizens Defense League, Inc.**

Dear Chairwoman Andrea Stillman, and Chairman Steven Dargan, Members of the Public Safety and Security Committee, My name is Scott Wilson Sr. I currently reside in New London, CT, and I am testifying in opposition to H5158 an Act Concerning the Regulation of Firearms.

I am also the current President of the Connecticut Citizens Defense League. CCDL as it is known is a non-partisan grassroots gun rights organization advocating for both the 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment of the US Constitution, and also Article I Sec 15 of the Connecticut State Constitution through legislative action and public enlightenment.

Section 10 of this Act would eliminate private sales of long guns (rifles and shotguns) as has been a commonly accepted practice among sportsmen, target shooters, hunters, collectors, friends and family members handing them down through generations to their children, and children's children. I hope to be able to do the same someday with my son or children he may one day have. Thousands of these long guns have been handed down this way in Connecticut for many years and it has seldom been a concern to Public Safety. It is certainly not worthy of more intrusion of every day law abiding citizens.

Section 10 of this Bill would require the registration of long guns along with an authorization for the sale or transfer as is currently done for handguns.

What Public Safety Value is gained by adding an additional level of registration for long guns? Why bear the additional cost and effort for the State Police to create and maintain a long gun registration database? For what purpose is it intended?

Spending time and energy requiring law abiding citizens navigate through a myriad of laws that simply do not make sense as opposed to holding violent criminals accountable for their actions is unconscionable. We as law abiding gun owners are met with scrutiny that implies guilt moreover than innocence.

Among my activities outside of supporting gun rights that I am quite proud of is being a consistent volunteer for the Department Of Corrections for the past 15 years trying to help non-violent offenders turn their lives around and reduce the recidivism rate of incarceration here in this State.

**Every citizen has a right  
to bear arms in defense  
of himself and the state.**

*Connecticut State Constitution, Article First, Section 15*



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That being said, I still believe violent offenders should pay for their crimes and not the law abiding gun owners by tacking on more unnecessary gun control. And year after year, this is the case.

Unless existing long guns come back into the "system" by becoming re-sold at retail again, there is no way to enforce this section. Existing long guns transferred on an individual basis prior to the enactment of this legislation would be unaffected and can theoretically continue to be transferred to other individuals.

In addition to Section 10, we are also opposed to Sec. 11 concerning Gun Shows and the 30-day notification process to both DPS and the local Chief of police for the town where the gun show is to be held. Again, what purpose is served by creating additional administrative burdens on gun show operators. No improvement of Public Safety is achieved through this measure either.

I urge the rejection of H5158 unless or until objectionable language in the above sections are removed. I ask that you do this in respect to the law abiding citizens of this State that wish to exercise their rights to the fullest, and without obstacle.

Respectfully Submitted,

Scott Wilson Sr.  
President  
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