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Connecticut Citizens Defense League, Inc.

February 22, 2011

Chairwoman Hartley and Members of the Committee,

I'm writing **IN OPPOSITION to S.B. 1017** AN ACT CONCERNING THE CONSOLIDATION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND HOMELAND SECURITY AND THE BOARD OF FIREARMS PERMIT EXAMINERS INTO THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY, AND TRANSFERRING RESPONSIBILITY FOR AMUSEMENT PARK OVERSIGHT TO THE DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER PROTECTION.

By placing the Board of Firearms Permit Examiners under the Department of Public Safety, the State will not be creating any "savings." It will instead allow the Department of Public Safety to act as "judge, jury, and executioner" for all matters relating to the lawful carrying of firearms in the State of Connecticut.

The Board is the primary resource available to citizens whose permits to carry have been denied or revoked by police agencies. If this change were allowed, aggrieved citizens would be at the complete mercy of the same organization that denied or revoked their permit in the first place. The damage to due process and other civil liberties by moving the Board under the Department of Public Safety would be unconscionable.

With 7 unpaid volunteers who receive zero compensation, and a single paid staff member, the Board costs the state less than \$100,000 per year. This is a drop in the bucket of a \$3.4 billion deficit. Furthermore the replacement or elimination of the single paid staff member would eliminate the one state employee with the knowledge of the people and processes involved. This would further extend the already year-long wait list and extend the backlog.

The Board as it stands now provides the more than 150,000 voting permit holders, and countless others who may apply for a permit in the future, with an opportunity to have a fair and objective hearing on any denial or revocation of their permit. It serves many as the last opportunity in resolving permit issues without resorting to lawsuits.

Thank you,

Kevin Holian-Borgnis
Ellington, CT
Secretary, CT Citizens Defense League

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