



## State of Connecticut

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*Testimony by Representative Rob Sampson  
Before the Public Safety and Security Committee  
On House Bill 5643  
February 10, 2011*

Good morning Chairman Hartley, Chairman Dargan, Representative Giegler, Senator Guglielmo, and members of the Public Safety and Security Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. I'm here this morning to express my support for **HB 5643 – AN ACT CONCERNING THE CARRYING OF FIREARMS BY OUT- OF-STATE RESIDENTS**

Currently, Connecticut is one of a steadily shrinking number of states that has no reciprocity agreements in place with other states to allow non-residents to carry firearms here in Connecticut.

The goal of this legislation is to prevent making criminals out of law abiding citizens and more importantly, to reinforce the idea that the right to a person's self-defense should neither begin nor end at the Connecticut border.

Those individuals who have gone through the rigorous process of obtaining a pistol permit here in Connecticut or elsewhere in the country have not only consented to a background check but have also demonstrated their commitment to be law abiding citizens. It is no surprise that many studies show that permit holders are the least likely individuals to be involved in any sort of violent crime.

The failure of Connecticut and a minority of other states to adopt a common sense plan for reciprocity for pistol permit holders only creates a hodgepodge of confusing and contradicting laws and regulations that could potentially end up putting an honest traveling salesman or truck driver in legal jeopardy.

This begs for a more important question. Just when and where does ones right to self-defense begin and end?

I believe that one of the tenants of being an American citizen is the recognition of our own personal sovereignty. Clearly, America's founder's recognized our individual right to own and protect our property and ourselves. The second amendment to our US Constitution is clearly stated and its intent to apply to individuals has recently been reaffirmed by the US Supreme Court.

While many people have used the recent shooting of congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords to make their point that guns have no place in our society, I believe the tragedy points to the need for government to think hard before it limits the ability of law abiding citizens to protect and defend themselves.

Thank you for the hearing on HB 5643 and I wish to express my support of the bill and the committee's favorable action.

Sincerely,

Rep. Rob Sampson  
80<sup>th</sup> District