

Public Safety Committee
Legislative Office Building
Hartford Connecticut

February 10, 2011

SUPPORT: HB5263, HB5270, HB5643, SB547, SB554

OPPOSE: HB5800, SB42

Chairman Dargan, Chairman Hartley, Distinguished Members of the Public Safety Committee:

I am opposed to the following two bills:

HB 5800 AN ACT REQUIRING REGISTRATION OF ALL FIREARMS. This legislation will do nothing to prevent crime, and in fact will encourage less compliance in the tracing of firearms. Criminals will not move to register their firearms, and I do not feel the potential extra expense that would be required to monitor compliance would be justified. The bill does not contemplate how the Department of Public Safety plans to enforce this registration, but the ways that come to mind seem to me like they would border on violating Constitutional rights. It should be noted that Canada has its own firearm registry in place, which has proven ineffective and extremely expensive. They are currently moving to eliminate the entire program. We should learn from their mistake.

SB 42 AN ACT CONCERNING GUN SAFETY STANDARDS FOR FIRING RANGES.

I am very disappointed that the committee would choose to raise this bill without providing the actual text prior to the public hearing. It is virtually impossible to provide accurate comments without knowing the specific language. I would ask you to oppose this bill based on that alone. Also, historically, we have seen gun range related legislation introduced in previous sessions which would have been difficult for the ranges to comply with and would ultimately have caused them harm, so I can only surmise this bill is of similar nature. Given that many ranges have employees, sell products and/or pay property or sales taxes, I believe that this legislation could potentially harm ranges, which can be ill afforded in this economy. I would sincerely hope that this committee takes the impact of small businesses into consideration before any further action is taken on this bill.

I would very much like to thank this committee for raising the following bills, which I would urge you to SUPPORT:

HB 5263 AN ACT AUTHORIZING RENEWAL OF STATE PERMIT TO CARRY A PISTOL OR REVOLVER BY MAIL. Purpose: To permit the holder of a state pistol permit to renew the permit by mail.

HB 5270 AN ACT AUTHORIZING RENEWAL OF STATE PERMIT TO CARRY A PISTOL OR REVOLVER BY MAIL OR BY ELECTRONIC SUBMISSION. Purpose: To permit the holder of a state permit to carry a pistol or revolver to renew said permit by mail or by electronic submission

HB 5643 AN ACT CONCERNING THE CARRYING OF FIREARMS BY OUT-OF-STATE RESIDENTS. Purpose: To allow an out-of-state resident who holds a license or permit to carry from another state to carry firearms in this state

SB 547 AN ACT CONCERNING FIREARMS. To revise the applicability of the statute regulating the sale, delivery and transfer of handguns and to modify the definition of "assault weapon.

SB 554 AN ACT CONCERNING THE PISTOL PERMIT APPEALS PROCESS. Purpose To set certain time limits for pistol permit appeals.

In closing, I hope the committee will give serious consideration offered on these bills today, and I appreciate the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely
Amy Stegall
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