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

Honorable Members of the Public Safety and Security Committee, My name is Scott Wilson, and I am a founding member and President of the Connecticut Citizens Defense League. We are a 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment Right Organization here in Connecticut.

While Bills that are being heard today include HB6376 and SB966, are very favorable to law abiding citizens and are supported by CCDL, I am presenting oral and written testimony on two Bills:

### 1) HB 6377- AN ACT CONCERNING FIREARMS PREEMPTION

A Firearms Preemption law is something that Connecticut has needed for some time. There is a myriad of ordinances throughout the towns and cities of Connecticut. Many of the places that are off-limits are not posted, or posted clearly. We as law abiding citizens want to follow the law, and we expect that there would be some protections and guarantees afforded us after passing back-round checks, taking safety courses and going over a number of other hurdles to obtain a Permit to Carry that is issued by the State of Connecticut.

Example: It is often difficult to in some instances drive across the State to attend a concert in a city park to find out that there is a "No Firearms" ordinance. What does a law abiding citizen then do?

In my own town of New London on the books there is Ordinance 14-11 which reads as follows:

**Sec. 14-11. Carrying concealed weapons, discharging firearms.**  
**No person shall carry any concealed weapon in said city nor shall any person discharge any species of firearms in any street of said city, without authority of the council.**  
**(Ord. of 3-5-45, § 9)**

New Britain has a similar ordinance as well, **Ordinance 16-80.**

Although these are town ordinances, no law abiding person that does choose to carry a firearm and tries to follow every law in a conscientious manner, wants a misunderstanding where they face the possibility of arrest and maybe having their permit revoked. Having a revocation and then needing to apply for a hearing before BFPE for a reinstatement is still a strong possibility, even if the arrest is vacated. Please also bear in mind that criminals do not care about town ordinances or any other law for that matter.

As a side-note, I have proposed a language change to the City Manager of New London, and I am waiting for them to run it through their respective process. This has been attempted in the past by other concerned citizens and it has gone nowhere.

**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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### **2) SB 967- AN ACT CONCERNING APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR A TEMPORARY STATE PERMIT TO CARRY A PISTOL OR A REVOLVER.**

With regards to this Bill, I receive numerous emails from pistol permit applicants around the State concerning various obstacles of a wide variety including: Requests for letters of character reference, requests for signed releases by applicants to run credit checks, requests for medical releases and also delays on issuing Temporary Permits due to time/staffing constraints, and sometimes even tactics that delay issuance such as claims of fingerprints being smudged or very simply lost paperwork. These last two items are not that rare unfortunately.

Many applicants are often discouraged and decide to opt out of the application process altogether based on what can only be perceived as serious privacy violations. Others seek out our organization to help resolve some of these issues, and we do our best, but are often met with little cooperation from Local Issuing Authorities.

East Haven, West Haven, New Haven, Hartford, Middletown and Meriden are just some of the Cities not complying with a Declaratory Ruling that was issued in 2010 by the Board of Firearms Permit Examiners that my Vice President Lenny Benedetto and myself were named parties of interest on.

Many of those that have been delayed or denied their due process have filed for hearings with the BFPE, and that has contributed to a tremendous backlog of individuals waiting to be heard. It now takes over eighteen months for a typical before BFPE I am told.

We request that this Bill be passed into law to ease the process for both applicants and governmental agencies alike.

To the members of the Public Safety and Security Committee, thank you for hearing and considering my testimony.

*Sincerely,*  
**Scott Wilson**  
*President CCDL, Inc.*  
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