

Testimony to the honorable members of the Public Safety Committee

Robert Chambers

143 Vermont Avenue

Stratford, CT 06615

Robert.M.Chambers@gmail.com

I wish to impress upon the members of the committee my opposition to this proposed legislation:

S.B. No. 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

As a twenty year resident of this state and a fairly recent addition to the community of law-abiding gun owners I would like to give you my thoughts on why consolidating the Board of Firearms Permit Examiners (BPFE) into the Department of Public Safety (DPS) is not in the best interests of the residents of this state.

I am also a founding member of the Connecticut Citizens Defense League (CCDL) and part of our reason for being is to help law-abiding citizens in this state exercise their rights under article 15 of the Connecticut Constitution. Numerous times we have heard from our members of horrible treatment at the hands of local town administrations, delays, requests for personal financial and even medical information as part of the local permitting process. None of these local authorities are complying with Connecticut Statutes which explain in great detail exactly what is to be requested and only what is allowed. The BPFE members hear many cases of law-abiding citizens being treated poorly by the local issuing authorities. How can we expect these people to get a fair hearing if the BPFE is dissolved or rolled into the DPS? The fox cannot be in charge of guarding the chickens.

The mandate of the DPS seems to be somewhat at odds with the rights of the people in a free state. The DPS is constantly proposing legislation which attempts to further restrict or hamper law-abiding citizens from exercising their rights under the US and Connecticut Constitutions. To have this department also hear appeals from citizens tells me that nobody is going to have an impartial hearing.

The law-abiding gun owners in this state are not the problem. The problem with guns that this and other perhaps well-intentioned but poorly executed bills attempt to solve for are for the vast majority of cases committed by criminals. Criminals who by very definition are prohibited from owning or possessing firearms and certainly by virtue of being criminals show no regard for the law.

I would respectfully ask that the committee let this proposed legislation die in place.

If I can be of any assistance to the committee members in their deliberations please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely yours

Robert M. Chambers
Stratford.