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Connecticut Citizens Defense League, Inc.

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Chairwoman Hartley and Chairmen Dargan and members of the Public Safety and Security Committee, my name is Leonard Benedetto. I am a resident of Stratford and I am the Vice President of the Connecticut Citizens Defense League. We are the largest Grassroots Pro 2A organization in Connecticut with over 1000 members and I am testifying in

Opposition to:

SB 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"

Sec. 36. Subsection (a) of section 29-32b of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective July 1, 2011):(a) There shall be established a Board of Firearms Permit Examiners, within the Department of Public Safety, [for administrative purposes only,] hereinafter referred to as the board, to be comprised of seven members appointed by the Governor to serve during his term and until their successors are appointed and qualify. With the exception of public members, the members shall be appointed from nominees of the Commissioner of Public Safety, the Connecticut State Association of Chiefs of Police, the Commissioner of Environmental Protection, The Connecticut State Rifle and Revolver Association, Inc., and Ye Connecticut Gun Guild, Inc., and each of said organizations shall be entitled to representation on the board. At least one member of the board shall be a lawyer licensed to practice in this state, who shall act as chairman of the board during the hearing of appeals brought under this section.

This bill calls for the removal of [for administrative purposes only,]. This a very scary proposition to law abiding gun owners in Connecticut. The Board is a group of INDEPENDENT volunteers, as INDEPENDENT volunteers their job is to see that every citizen gets a fair and just review of any situation that may have brought them before the Board.

If the board now falls under THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY then their schedule as well as their agenda may now be dictated by a CT department that in the past, has absolutely shown that they would rather make firearm ownership more difficult for law abiding citizens.

Having personally attended hearings of THE BOARD OF FIREARMS PERMIT EXAMINERS, I can say that their decisions have always been FAIR! If they were to report into THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY for anything more than [for administrative purposes only,] THIS MAY CHANGE!

I believe that the Board does have one paid employee, an administrative assistant. Since this is being sold to the citizens of Connecticut as some kind of cost saving measure then it looks like this part of this bill would actually put another CT citizen on the unemployment list.

For the sake of the HONEST Citizens of Connecticut that count on the UNBIASED opinion of THE BOARD OF FIREARMS PERMIT EXAMINERS, I urge you to oppose at least this part of SB 1017.

Thank You

Leonard Benedetto
Vice President
Connecticut Citizens
Defense League, Inc.

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

Connecticut State Constitution, Article First, Section 15