

From: Altman, Hank <altman@centerbrook.com>
Sent: Monday, March 18, 2013 1:56 PM
To: INSTestimony
Subject: testimony submitted for H.B. No. 6656
Attachments: Testimony submitted for H.B. 6656.pdf

CT elected officials,

Please see attached testimony in opposition to the H.B. No. 6656. I have been attending and speaking at the public hearings but cannot be present at this one, so please accept my written testimony for your consideration.

Respectfully,
Hank Altman

Testimony Submitted to the CT General Assembly: Insurance and Real Estate Committee
in opposition to H.B. No. 6656 Tuesday March 19, 2013

CT Legislators,

The proposal to require additional liability insurance for gun owners will **not** deter criminals from plotting their next crime. **H.B. No. 6656** will only serve to punish lawful gun owners. Indirectly this bill will hurt the CT economy as it forces gun-related business to close, or leave the state.

The burden of additional insurance fees will in effect prohibit some income groups from owning firearms to protect themselves. That is a serious infringement. Self-protection is a basic right that is inalienable and guaranteed by the US and CT Constitutions. H.B. No. 6656 is the equivalent of a poll tax, which is discriminatory, unfair, and frankly, immoral. H.B. No. 6656 will do nothing to prevent crime, as criminals will not have the proposed insurance.

CT needs to re-focus their efforts in developing viable proposals for legislation aimed at preventing crime. The bills that are being proposed that impose major infringements to lawful gun ownership, additional fees and insurance are NOT HELPFUL to solving the problems of deterring violence and keeping our children safe. Why are you even discussing these types of bills? They take away from the serious issues. As citizens we ask that the CT legislature stop rubber-stamping these ridiculous bills that are obviously products of one radical lobbying group or another.

Please stop this assault on the rights of lawful CT citizens. Please have the courage to focus your energies on the real issues: the complex problems of mental health, reducing bullying in schools, better parenting, and decreasing the violent images that our children are exposed to on a daily basis by the media and entertainment industries. Until those important issues are dealt with, no amount of fees, insurance, permits, or other punitive legislation will stop these reprehensible crimes.

Please act on the real issues and stop punishing lawful firearms users for the crimes of the mentally deranged, over-medicated monsters that you allow to circulate in our society. Here's a suggestion: keep criminals locked up. Bring back the death penalty for violent crimes. Those deterrents will do far more than any insurance requirement can ever achieve.

Lastly, where are the specific facts from the Newtown murders? The details of very crime you are basing all of your legislation on is being hidden from the public, with only minor details being leaked to various new sources. This is an outrage and does not appropriately honor the lives lost. They deserve better.

Please delay the passage or vote of **any laws** until all of the investigations have been completed.

Please reject H.B. No. 6656.

Respectfully submitted,
Henry D. Altman, AIA
Killingworth CT