

3/19/2013

In reference to proposition bill 6656

Dear Members of the Real Estate and Insurance Committee,

I would like to voice my intense opposition to proposed bill #6656. The foremost reason, which should not require any other debate, is that it is completely UNCONSTITUTIONAL. The Right to Bear Arms is exactly that, a Right, not granted by the government, but protected by the government. Any legislation that mandates a tax or fee associated with a God-given right to defend oneself should not even make it to the table.

The citizens of this country have asked for transparency from our politicians. That is exactly what we have gotten from this proposed bill, because clearly, the only purpose of this bill is to create one more barrier between the law-abiding citizen and the right to self-defense. It is discriminatory, especially towards women, who are already at a disadvantage when it comes to being able to defend themselves.

Every day in America, 6,850 armed Americans defend themselves and their families from a crime. How many will die because they couldn't afford the insurance coverage or because their coverage was denied? You are forcing peoples' hands to either give up their rights or not comply and go to jail. These people will be single moms working two jobs trying to put food on the table. These people will be good people living in dangerous neighborhoods that are just trying to survive.

With today's harsh realities of unemployment and underemployment, the once middle class is now struggling to provide for their families. We have a Bill of Rights for a reason. They apply to everybody, not just those that can afford to pay more out of pocket.

From my perspective, this is comparable to a poll tax. Should we need insurance to vote? Can we file a claim if we don't get the desired result from an election? The pen of a self-serving politician is far more dangerous than any firearm.

Thank you for your time,
Tahra Erickson
Marlborough, CT