

Members of the Insurance and Real Estate Committee:

My name is Mary Smutnick, from Northeastern CT.

I come to you today, submitting my testimony, for the third time, in as many months, in opposition to bills and or concepts, that may seek to restrict my right to own and operate a firearm. I am in opposition to HB 6656, An act concerning liability insurance for firearms possessors or owners.

The idea that mandated liability insurance for firearms would cause our population to be safer from criminals who would seek to do us harm is ill-conceived. This concept, if implemented, would cause legal gun-owners to become non-gun-owners simply due to the cost of needing liability insurance. As you know, many in our state are unemployed or under-employed and would not be able to afford another tax for something that they legally possess. If this legislation becomes law, please realize that you will be targeting the poorest of the poor; people who reside in our state's cities, where crime is the highest. Do you not think it necessary for these people to have their right of self-defense retained?

I ask if you have thought about who will enforce this insurance mandate if it becomes law? How? At what cost will the State of Connecticut apply this law, knowing that there are no funds in our budget for doing so?

Lastly, I again would like to remind each and every one of you that you are not above the oath of office which you took upon becoming elected by the people of your district. If you are unsure of how you would vote on this piece of legislation, or if your mind has already been made up to pass this into law, I ask that you study the history of how tyrants in other nations used these same methods to render their citizens defenseless. Then, go to the last chapter to see the results. Your oath of office has meaning. You will find it if you have the will.

God Bless you all, and may you be on the right side of history.

Mary Smutnick
Northeast CT