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## Connecticut Citizens Defense League, Inc.

Greetings members of the Insurance and Real Estate committee,

My name is Scott Wilson, and I reside in New London. I am also a co-founder and the president of the Connecticut Citizens Defense League Inc. We are a state-wide grass roots pro 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment organization with 4,500+ members. I am writing in opposition HB6656. The very notion that a bill of this nature is introduced to our legislature is indicative that too many elected officials stand in opposition of the natural right of self-defense. Our rights as citizens of Connecticut and the United States should in no way shape or form ever be contingent on whether or not we may be able to purchase and maintain insurance. This is another ill-conceived scheme that has been added to the pile of growing nuisance requirements that are currently proposed, and would ultimately force gun owners into giving up on the notion of owning guns altogether.

This is an unacceptable outcome for those of us who understand that a government (municipal, state or federal) has no official duty to protect an individual from harm. (*Warren v District of Columbia*). While in some instances the police do show up and protect people (which is a good thing), ultimately the life of an individual is their own responsibility to protect. Police simply put cannot be everywhere all at once.

This last point illustrates the faulty concept of this bill; is it the State of Connecticut's place to mandate insurance coverage so that a law abiding citizen can properly protect themselves?

- Will Connecticut guarantee protection of every citizen that claims they cannot afford the insurance requirement of owning a gun?
- Would Connecticut subsidize policies for poor or below income people that cannot afford "Gun insurance" so that they would not be disenfranchised?
- What if all Insurance companies decide they will not extend coverage to gun owners, or certain gun owners in whimsical fashion?
- How would a law pass mandating insurance without beforehand of any projected costs for policies?
- Does the state send out "collectors" if insurance coverage lapses?

I strongly urge the committee to consider my above points that are made I also sincerely hope that the Insurance and Real Estate Committee hearing this particular bill comes to realize that every single gun owner (that is law abiding) is essentially being systematically punished for the acts of a mentally ill person that plotted and executed a truly horrific event. Concepts like HB6656 are not the Connecticut I know, or the Connecticut I grew up in. We should always keep the view of protecting our children, but not at the expense of our rights, or through the punishment of our good people. I ask this committee to let wisdom and constitutional principle reign supreme over any personal dislike of firearms that you may have (if any), and what some may do with them.

Scott Wilson  
President  
CCDL, Inc.

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

Connecticut State Constitution, Article First, Section 15