

Thursday, March 14, 2013

Public Safety and Security Committee

Committee Bill No. 6162: An Act Concerning Ineligibility for a Permit to Carry a Pistol or Revolver or an Eligibility Certificate based Upon a Prior Hospitalization.

A **privilege** is a special permission, immunity or benefit granted by another authority on a conditional basis. It can be revoked or modified by that same authority in certain circumstances. By contrast, a **right** is an inherent, irrevocable entitlement held by all citizens or all human beings from the moment of birth. A drivers license is a **privilege** granted by CT Statute. As my Senator, you have the **privilege** of serving as a lawmaker granted by my vote. Gun ownership is a '**Constitutional Right**', entitled by the mere fact that I am a US citizen and a Connecticut resident.

CONSTITUTION OF THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT:

ARTICLE FIRST. DECLARATION OF RIGHTS:

SEC. 15. *Every citizen has a right to bear arms in defense of himself and the state.*

UNITED STATES CONSTITUTION: SECOND AMENDMENT: *A well regulated Militia being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms shall not be infringed.* (and as ruled by the Supreme Court in *District of Columbia v. Heller*<sup>2</sup>, confirmed that the rights of the Second Amendment adhere to individuals ... and extend beyond the context of militia service to include self-defense.)

I am opposed to Committee Bill No. 6162: An Act Concerning Ineligibility for a Permit to Carry a Pistol or Revolver or an Eligibility Certificate based Upon a Prior Hospitalization..

Essentially this bills only purpose is to modify the ineligibility for a permit to carry a pistol or revolver or an eligibility certificate by adding the restriction of "or a person **residing in the household of the applicant** has been confined to a hospital for persons with psychiatric disabilities" ....

This is an unfair, unwarranted and possibly an unconstitutional restriction to acquiring or renewing a 'pistol carry permit'. Not only does it infringe on my rights and privileges merely by 'residence', but it also presents an untenable position of choice ..... "permit" or "roommate" .... which for many with family responsibilities for those with psychiatric disabilities, is unwarranted and 'just not right'. Where do we stop! My neighbor across the hall in my apartment. My neighbor across the street. Someone on my street. One has to conclude, that this change to existing law has no valid or reasonable impact on gun safety and may even be unconstitutional because is restricts ownership in a manner not related to an individuals responsibility or public threat.

I urge you to recognize these observations and REJECT the proposed Committee Bill NO. 6162

Thank you.

Bruce Tolhurst  
16 Virginia Rail Dr.  
Marlborough, CT 06447  
860-295-0327