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## Connecticut Citizens Defense League, Inc.

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Honorable members of the Public Safety and Security Committee,  
My name is Chris Lemos and I am a resident of Stratford. I am also a firearms instructor, a range safety officer, and an executive member of the Connecticut Citizens Defense League (CCDL).

**I am here today in opposition of SB1076, SB299, SB505, SB710, SB1071 and SB6162**

Let's start with:

SB1076: AN ACT CONCERNING THE REDUCTION OF GUN VIOLENCE

OPPOSE. This bill does absolutely nothing to actually reduce gun violence, and is so insidious that I'm sure most people will be talking about that today, so I'd like to quickly address a few other bills in the few minutes I have. Obviously I strongly oppose this bill.

SB299: AN ACT CONCERNING COMMUNICATION AMONG STATE AND LOCAL POLICE DEPARTMENTS DURING ACTIVE SHOOTER INCIDENTS.

This bill should cover ALL mass casualty events; not just an active shooter. It's just as important to have this level of coordination between departments for ANY large scale public safety issue.

SB505: AN ACT CONCERNING THE MINIMUM AGE TO PURCHASE A RIFLE OR OTHER LONG GUN.

OPPOSE. People aged 18 to 21 are considered old enough and responsible enough to join the military or go into law enforcement and handle real assault weapons. They are old enough and responsible enough to vote for you, the people who make the laws, and to be liable for their actions if they break those laws. Why shouldn't they be allowed to own a hunting shotgun or target rifle?

SB710: AN ACT CONCERNING PERMITS FOR GUN SHOWS.

OPPOSE. This bill is unnecessary and arbitrary. Gun shows must already adhere to local zoning and insurance regulations for public events, as well as all state and federal firearm laws. This bill adds an undefined and subjective standard of "suitability". There are 169 towns in CT, that's 169 different definitions of suitable.

SB1071: AN ACT CONCERNING ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR THE CRIMINAL INJURIES COMPENSATION FUND.

OPPOSE: This bill unfairly taxes one segment of industry that is already taxed on multiple levels. Will we also tax knife, bat, and automobile manufacturers and dealers? The firearms industry directly and indirectly employs and supports a large number of CT residents; do we want to enact yet another reason to drive these jobs out of our state?

SB6162: AN ACT CONCERNING INELIGIBILITY FOR A PERMIT TO CARRY A PISTOL OR REVOLVER OR AN ELIGIBILITY CERTIFICATE BASED ON A PRIOR HOSPITALIZATION.

OPPOSE. While I agree with the sentiment that keeping weapons away from mentally ill people is a desirable thing, we must balance it against the right to self defense guaranteed in both our state and federal constitution.

I don't think that disarming an entire household because one person voluntarily sought mental help strikes that balance. In fact, I feel such a law would discourage family members from getting a person help early for fear of losing their rights.

The next "Nancy Lanza" may be even less inclined to seek the proper help for her "Adam" if this bill becomes law.

