

Dom Basile
90 Sunnyside Ave.
Oakville, CT 06779
860.274.8411
dot_dom@msn.com

To Our Legislators,

I am writing today to express my strong **opposition** to **HB 6595 – An Act Prohibiting The Discharge Of Firearms Near Private Residences.**

This legislation would effectively act to close down many of the well established shooting ranges that we have in existence. These are shooting facilities that have proven records of safety and community involvement.

I belong to several clubs, they have been scrutinized by experts and were found to have among the best safety protocols in the nation as well as properly run land management systems that have provided thriving habitats for many different species of flora and wildlife.

These clubs are good neighbors to their communities providing programs for safety and education on a regular basis as well as running many different fund raisers that go towards everything from college scholarships to supporting food pantries and energy assistance.

While far from a commercial enterprise, we hold competitions regularly which serve to benefit the local economy as it is commonplace to patronize a nearby restaurant or fuel up your car after a match.

Lastly, we provide an invaluable service by offering our facilities free of charge to many surrounding law enforcement agencies. We are a strong asset to the community in that we help promote better trained police departments without any expense to the taxpayers.

I oppose HB 6251 An Act Requiring Fingerprinting And Criminal Background Checks Prior To The Sale, Delivery Or Transfer Of All Long Guns simply because mandating that a lawful purchaser continually acquire a new set of fingerprints each and every time they wanted to buy a gun is an unreasonable, overreaching burden on a citizen's time and finances.

I oppose SB 506 An Act Requiring Criminal Background Checks For All Private Firearm Sales as it is written because it fails to address the shortcomings of the NICS system. These flaws need to be corrected before we put forth further burdens on an already problematic system. In order to be fair and balanced, a performance clause should be written

into the NICS system to ensure that your constituents are properly protected. We have already seen budget cuts, reducing staffing and hours of operation to NICS. These reductions in services act as a defacto form of gun control, preventing the law abiding from procuring firearms while having no hindrance on the criminal black market. I implore you to please improve upon the NICS system before enacting such legislation.

I oppose SB 505 An Act Concerning The Minimum Age Requirement To Purchase A Rifle. It is my opinion that we need to have a definitive understanding of what the age of majority is. In this state it is at 18 years of age. At 18 you can vote, have a family and have a home, yet this legislation would prevent an adult from being able to have the means to protect that very same home and family. Many of those that are serving in the Armed Forces are in the demographic of being between the ages of 18 and 21. They are trained and entrusted with various types of firearms yet, when they return home, would be penalized from having any because they lack the age or maturity level?

In closing I find it peculiar that we are eager to pass legislation before the official State Police findings on the Sandy Hook shooting have been released. In life, we often find ourselves regretting decisions that we've made in haste and I find it irresponsible for our legislators to be taking any action before being able to obtain and disseminate all the facts. I respectfully request that you perform your due diligence so that you can properly serve your constituents by making well educated decisions. I am disappointed to see that we've let fear and ignorance dictate our decision making process.

Please feel free to contact me should you have any questions on this or any other gun related topics.

Respectfully submitted,

Dom Basile