

Testimony to the Public Safety and Security Committee
March 14, 2013

OPPOSE: SB 505, SB 1071, HB 6162, HB 6251, SB 1076
SUPPORT: SB 299

Honorable members of the Public Safety and Security Committee:

My name is Kevin Holian-Borgnis. I'm a honest citizen, gun owner, father of two, and Secretary of the Connecticut Citizens Defense League. We're the largest grassroots pro-gun organization in the State with nearly 4500 members statewide. I'm opposed to most of what is being proposed here today, but since I'm short on time I'll try to limit my discussion.

SUPPORT with Modifications:

SB299 AAC COMMUNICATION AMONG STATE AND LOCAL POLICE DEPARTMENTS DURING ACTIVE SHOOTER INCIDENTS

I support this bill, but I don't see a valid reason to limit it to active shooter incidents. Any incident with multiple victims seems like it might benefit from the increased communication.

OPPOSE SB505 AAC THE MINIMUM AGE TO PURCHASE A RIFLE OR OTHER LONG GUN

Connecticut has a rich history of hunting that will be dismantled for adults aged 18-21. These adults are deemed old enough to vote, pay taxes, and sacrifice their lives to this country. However, with this legislation they would be unable to come home and hunt or participate in target shooting upon returning home.

OPPOSE SB1071 AAC ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR THE CRIMINAL INJURIES COMPENSATION FUND

This bill is trying to keep small businesses out of this state by enacting new regulatory schemes and steep barriers to entry. But new small business are not the only ones that would be affected, it looks like this legislation would also apply to manufacturers and importers already in the state. CT has a long history of firearms manufacturing that would be destroyed by imposing strict new licensing requirements and increased taxes. Several companies have already said they are considering leaving the state. Why make it an easier decision by pushing the industry, which contributes thousands of jobs and more than \$1.5 billion to the State's economy?

OPPOSE HB6162 AAC INELIGIBILITY FOR A PERMIT TO CARRY A PISTOL OR REVOLVER OR AN ELIGIBILITY CERTIFICATE BASED ON A PRIOR HOSPITALIZATION

I worry that this legislation would make those who need help with mental health issues less likely to seek it. We've seen as recently as last week a case in California where a man's firearms were confiscated by State Police in California after his wife voluntarily checked herself into a hospital to deal with mental health issues. While the intentions of

this bill seem good, the implementation is misguided. A requirement that firearms be locked up and made inaccessible would be sufficient.

OPPOSE HB6251 AN ACT REQUIRING FINGERPRINTING AND CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECKS PRIOR TO THE SALE, DELIVERY OR TRANSFER OF ALL LONG GUNS

This bill is not aimed at public safety, but instead increasing the burdens on honest citizens. The requirement of including fingerprints with every transfer adds both additional cost and time to the transaction. It does nothing to enhance the instant background check already done in most instances and provides no exemptions for immediate family transfers. I would not be able to hand my guns down to my son without him first being fingerprinted and background checked. Something that is entirely unnecessary as I already know his criminal history and mental health status.

OPPOSE SB1076 AN ACT CONCERNING THE REDUCTION OF GUN VIOLENCE

This is a big one and it affects every single firearm owner in the state. It starts off with expanding the ban on modern sporting rifles by restricting them to one of the listed features. A ban that, at the federal level, has shown no evidence of reducing ANY crime. I can't imagine CT has seen any reduction in crime to do our ban.

Somehow this legislation will prohibit the sale of ammunition for long guns that fall under the modern sporting firearm ban. I'm not sure how this is intended to work since there exist pistols for most common long gun calibers in use today. How can the person selling the ammunition verify that the ammunition is being sold for a modern sporting rifle and not a pistol of the same caliber?

Mail order purchases of ammunition will be banned under this bill. So when all of the local stores are out of ammunition due to proposed legislation, I'll be unable to buy practice ammo online to improve my safe handling of firearms. That sounds counterproductive to the goal of 'public safety.'

There's a firearms registration that requires a national criminal history check. Did you know that DESPP charges \$50 for that check? Pistol Permit applicants didn't used to be charged this fee until the legislature doubled the cost of the permit fee. Then, since that additional money was going into the general fund and not being allocated to DESPP, they added the \$50 charge even though permit applicants are being subjected to the background check by law. The registration also requires renewal annually and for the criminal history check to be performed for every registration. Will this require gun owners to pay \$50 for every single check? This could get expensive.

Thank you for your time,

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