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## Connecticut Citizens Defense League, Inc.

Greetings Public Safety and Security Committee Members,

My name is Scott Wilson and I am a resident of New London and also the president of the Connecticut Citizens Defense League. I am here today to state that I oppose the following bills being heard today:

**SB505- SB506- SB1071- SB897- SB1076- HB6162- HB6251- HB6595- HB6598.** None of these bills being heard today would have prevented the Sandy Hook tragedy, nor will it prevent the current flow of guns that are obtained illegally from criminals that roam our city streets and prey on each other as well as innocents. When actual bills are heard that I believe will reduce tragedies such as what occurred in Sandy Hook or reduce crime overall, I will be happy to submit testimony that speaks to these real issues. There are in fact certain bills that have been introduced this session not on today's calendar that may accomplish just that. I will focus on the following today:

### **SB505- AN ACT CONCERNING THE MINIMUM AGE TO PURCHASE A RIFLE OR OTHER LONG GUN**

This bill is a 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment violation to young adults that often move out on their own upon reaching adulthood. Many start out in low income neighborhoods with higher crime rates, and they should be afforded the same rights to own firearms for protection that the rest of us have. Why would certain legislators be more than happy to take votes from this age group, allow them to fight for their country, but not allow them to have the ability to lawfully protect themselves? Some may even be returning heroes or at least currently serving in the military.

### **SB6595- AN ACT PROHIBITING THE DISCHARGE OF FIREARMS NEAR PRIVATE RESIDENCES**

This bill jeopardizes the numerous gun clubs and ranges that dot the state, and also the individual members of these clubs by attaching criminal charges to the statutory language. A club or gun range is the typical environment where safe firearms training is taught to maintain good standards. We would all agree that training is a good thing for people that own and use firearms. Concerns over discharged projectiles that may cross over property boundaries already are covered by applicable laws: (Reckless endangerment 53a-63 or 6.3-2 in the 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> degree respectively). Three final points on this particular bill that I'd like to make:

- 1) There is no self-defense provision in the language written into the language.
- 2) Many of these clubs and ranges predate dwellings that would trigger a violation of this proposed law.
- 3) Many police train at these private clubs and ranges.

### **SB1071- AN ACT CONCERNING ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR THE CRIMINAL INJURIES COMPENSATION FUND**

This bill is pure unadulterated punishment for manufacturers, importers and ultimately the individual that may seek to lawfully purchase a firearm. The cost will get passed along to the consumer. This bill would punish a group of people based on the actions of criminals operating independently, and on their own. This is an "end around" of the existing federal law known as the **Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act** that was specifically implemented to protect the gun industry for 3<sup>rd</sup> party acts. This is simply another tax in a state that taxes like no other.

SB1076 really could have used its own hearing based on the depth of it, but I have yielded testimony on that based on the importance of some of these other bills. I sincerely hope that the majority of our legislature does not believe as our Governor stated this past Monday that we who show up to defend our rights and liberty are "the fringe of the fringe". Any argument that is made for stricter gun laws that impact the guns in and of themselves only continue to perpetuate the argument for further restrictions every succeeding legislative session. Look back to the actions of a mentally ill person and the woeful school security that has been typical up through December 14<sup>th</sup> 2012.

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

Connecticut State Constitution, Article First, Section 15