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Connecticut Citizens Defense League, Inc.

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

I am submitting testimony in opposition of SB1076, SB505, SB710, SB1071 and SB6162

- **SB1076 - An act concerning gun violence.** I am vehemently opposed to this bill. It will in no way reduce gun violence. In fact, it is an affront to every law-abiding citizen who owns or wishes to own firearms. There is no way I can address every item in **SB1076**; however, if it is passed there is no doubt that the right to keep and bare arms will indeed be infringed. There is nothing fair or reasonable about **SB1076** and I am opposed to it in its entirety.
- **SB505 - act concerning the minimum age to purchase a rifle or other long gun.** I am strongly opposed to any law that would deny citizens who are old enough to fight and die for the United States of America the right to own a firearm. It's okay to send 18 year olds off a foreign country to defend you but not allow them the ability to defend themselves in their own country? Ridiculous.
- **SB710 - an act concerning permits for gun shows.** This bill is superfluous. There are already regulations in place that address gun shows. This is an attempt for someone to feel like they are effecting change when, in fact, all they are doing is mucking up an already established process. This bill should be thrown out.
- **SB1071 - an act concerning additional funding for the criminal injuries compensation fund.** I am opposed. I see this as nothing more than a money grab. It is already extremely difficult and costly for businesses to do operate in Connecticut due to tax and regulatory burdens. This bill puts a further strain on businesses that provide jobs and income to Connecticut. If these companies leave the state where will this revenue come from? Who next will be held accountable to pay for crimes? For that matter, what business is it of government to be compensating victims of crimes?
- **SB6162 - an act concerning ineligibility for a permit to carry a pistol or revolver or an eligibility certificate based on a prior hospitalization.** I am opposed. Many people with mental issues are not seeking the care they need. This bill will further deter people from getting help. Someone who fears losing their rights because they are obtaining medical care will most likely not seek it out. Not all mental disorders call people to act violently. We should be looking for ways to encourage people to get help, not make them afraid to get it. And punishing people who live with these people is not helping anybody or anything.

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