



State of Connecticut

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Senator Frantz
Testimony before the Public Safety and Security Commission
March 14, 2013
In support of SB 506

Senator Hartley, Representative Dargan, Senator Guglielmo, Representative Geigler, and members of the Public Safety and Security Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of **SB 506, An Act Requiring Criminal Background Checks For All Private Gun Sales.**

This bill touches on a subject that elicits strong emotions for everyone, gun safety. I know how hard the members of this committee have worked on this issue, and I thank all of you for your hard work. I believe that this bill is a common sense proposal that will help keep guns out of the hands of criminals, and will close a loop hole in our law that currently allows private transactions of firearms to occur without a background check.

Right now, if someone wanted to buy a long gun from a collector, they could give him the cash and take possession of the weapon immediately. The person selling the weapon would have no idea about the buyer's background, would have no idea if the buyer had a criminal record, or have no idea if the buyer was eligible to buy a firearm through a retailer.

While it is difficult to identify the exact number of sales that occur without a background check, we do know these sales happen. Whether sizeable or not, I believe closing this loophole is common sense and something non-gun owners and gun owners can support. If you go to any federally licensed firearm dealer, including retailers, you are required to have a background check. Enacting this proposal is one way to make sure that guns stay out of the hands of people who should not own them.

Thank you for your consideration and I would be happy to answer any questions

L. Scott Frantz
State Senator 36th district