

Judiciary Committee Public Hearing 03/11/2015

Dear Committee Members,

My name is Paul Acampora. I am a resident of the town of Woodbridge. I am a husband and a father of 6 children. I would like to thank you in advance for listening to my concerns in regards to the three proposed bills labeled HB6962, SB650, and HB6848.

I am opposed to bills HB6962, SB650, and HB6848.

As we have seen in the past, although the original intent of such bills may be to help, I believe negative impacts are rarely acknowledged until after such a bill has been put in place. Please think about the unintended consequences of the bills and how it may affect our rights or the lives of others.

HB6962 – I am opposed to this bill. This bill will have negative impact on the legal gun owner. I feel that during an event such as a home invasion, it may take away the ability to effectively defend one's self and family when seconds are what counts. Most firearms owners already take great measures to make sure access to their firearms is not gained by persons that may cause harm with them. I also believe we have a responsibility to teach our family members the dangers of firearms misuse and benefits of firearms safety. This bill places criminal and civil responsibilities on the firearms owner for the actions of others. When do we start to hold our society responsible for their own actions? We will be trying to hold them accountable for the actions of others. Enforce our current laws. We do have plenty and they do address safe gun storage.

SB650 – I am opposed to this bill. This bill is in regards to temporary restraining orders. Have we thought about the opposite side of things here? What happens when a person is justifiably threatened by another, and the "wrong" person files for a TRO. Will this disarm the individual who truly needs to protect themselves? Will this bill not create more issues than our existing restraining order bill?

HB6848 – I am opposed to this bill. This bill removes "Due process". The unintended consequence of this bill is that legal guns owners are subject to seizure of the lawfully owned firearms based on an accusation that may or may not be correct. This bill does not actually offer much in the way that would protect victims of domestic violence. But does clearly look for a way to confiscate firearms from the lawful owners.

Please look at how we are continuously trying to chip away at the rights of gun owners in our state while nationally the majority of states are passing bills to protect and strengthen the rights of gun owners. Why is Connecticut going in the wrong direction once again? And understand that as the 2nd amendment is being chipped away at, so are our other rights. This is creating a society based on legislation. We are teaching our kids that the way to prevent a bad thing from happening is to pass a bill. This is ineffective at best. Let's teach them the real ways to prevent crime and injury. Personal Accountability for our actions.

Thank you for listening to my comments, and I hope you consider the unanticipated results of these misguided bills.

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