

Dear Committee Members:

I am unable to attend the March 11, 2015 public hearing on SB-00650, HB-06848 and HB-06962. Please accept this written testimony for the record.

Please oppose all three bills. I believe they are without merit and further erode the personal rights of Connecticut citizens guaranteed by our US Constitution in the Bill of Rights.

Regarding SB-00650 and HB-06848 I oppose these bills because they remove due process of the law from the accused. The importance of due process cannot be over stated and in fact, it is stated in our Constitution in two places: The Fifth Amendment stating that no one shall be "deprived of life, liberty or property without due process of law" and the Fourteenth Amendment, in the Due Process Clause, describing the legal obligation of all the states. It is a protection – a promise that our government must operate legally and provide for fair procedures. In addition, these two bills if passed, may have unintended consequences to those that might actually be the victims of abuse and need the tools to defend themselves such as an abused wife or girlfriend whose estranged abusive husband / boyfriend might put in a restraining order on his estranged wife/girlfriend and thus having her only means of protection, her legally owned gun TAKEN from her.

Regarding HB-06962 I oppose this bill. Connecticut already has strict child access and negligent storage laws and can impose criminal liability if a child uses or possesses a firearm and causes injury or death. Let us just enforce the laws that are already there to protect our children.

I grew up with no guns in the house and never had guns as my daughters grew up, but now that they have grown I have a new found respect for guns and their usage after actually researching the facts on proper gun usage & storage, accidental shootings, guns used by lawful citizens to protect themselves and others, and the fact that criminals will not be affected by these laws at all because they will find a way to obtain a gun legally or illegally and use it in a criminal and violent way no matter what law you pass, while passing these laws would only further put law-abiding citizens at risk, take away our rights more than the State of Connecticut already has and not effectively save any lives.

It seems clear to me that the act of stealing the firearm and the recklessness or negligence involved in criminal use of the stolen gun would supersede my responsibility for any damages-civil or criminal.

**Please vote NO on these three bills.**

Respectfully submitted,

Robert E Jones

Registered Voter