

Members of the Committee:

Hello, my name is Jacob Valentine and I reside at 70 Juniper Lane in Griswold, Connecticut.

I would like to address why I oppose Governor's Bill No. 6848 - AN ACT PROTECTING VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE. This bill would change our current system of allowing a court to rule before a person loses any of his rights as an American to one where just being accused forces the surrender of a right once considered inalienable: personal property.

To be honest, I am confused about how this Bill made it all the way to the public hearing level when our Representatives are charged with upholding the laws of our State and this Nation. To quote Article 1, Section 8 of the Connecticut Constitution, "No person shall be compelled to give evidence against himself, nor be deprived of life, liberty or property without due process of law". How about Amendment 5 of the Bill of Rights? "[No person shall be] deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law". Due process of law. It seems that both our Founding Fathers and the people of Connecticut found it important to ensure that before a citizen is to forfeit his rights as a citizen, he must first be proven deserved.

I would be intrigued to learn how depriving ANYONE residing within this country of their property without directive from a court could possibly be considered legal, constitutional, or even moral. I was born and raised here in Connecticut. I served my country as a United States Marine and even though I had the option of raising my family elsewhere, I returned to the state that I loved. It is disturbing to me that even though this Bill is completely and unequivocally illegal, I still have a feeling that it will pass. I have lost faith in my State's ability to pass laws of sound judgment and can only hope that my gut has me misled.

Thank you for your time.