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Honorable Members of the Committee of the Judiciary,

I write to you today concerning Senate Bill 650, House Bill 6848 and House Bill 6962, and ask that you cast your vote to defeat these egregious bills!

Senate Bill 650 would allow doctors and family members, including even distant relatives, ex-husbands or ex-wives, to strip law-abiding gun owners of their gun rights **without due process of law**. This legislation would require a sworn police officer to serve all temporary restraining orders when the applicant indicates on the application that the respondent has access to a firearm or ammunition, or holds a valid state-issued firearm or ammunition permit or eligibility certificate, in order to immediately take "temporary" possession of all legally-owned firearms, ammunition and permits. Current law already provides a mechanism for committing dangerous persons involuntarily in an emergency situation, which already results in the committed person being prohibited from possessing firearms. Furthermore, Connecticut law already provides for "imminent risk warrants" to be issued, allowing law enforcement to seize firearms and ammunition when probable cause exists to warrant such necessary action. This bill takes unnecessary steps to blatantly circumvent our rights.

It's important for gun owners to have the opportunity to put up their own defense before losing their Second Amendment rights. This bill's low evidentiary standards and lack of a mechanism for individuals to present their own defense in a court of law presided over by a judge before being deprived of our constitutional rights is unacceptable.

Governor Dan Malloy's bill, HB 6848, similarly seeks to confiscate legally-acquired firearms and ammunition **without due process of the law**. This bill would give those served with a restraining or protective order 24 hours to transfer all firearms and ammunition to a federally licensed firearms dealer (FFL) or surrender them to the Commissioner of Emergency Services and Protection. **HB 6848 does not provide a way for these rights or possessions to be restored.**

Sponsored by the Judiciary Committee, House Bill 6962, or the "Burglar Protection Act," would impose liability and penalties on firearm owners that do not lock up their unloaded firearms to prevent any person (not only minors) from potentially accessing the firearm. Information from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) indicate that nationally since 1975, the annual number of firearm accident deaths among children ages 0-14 has declined by 87 percent, even as the population, the number of gun owners and the number of guns owned have risen substantially. Their reports also indicate that children are more likely to suffocate (27%), drown (17%), be accidentally poisoned (2.2%), or perish from an accidental fall (1.6%) and are as likely to die in a non-traffic bicycle and tricycle accident (1.5%) than they are in a firearm accident (1.5%).

It is already law in Connecticut that loaded firearms within close proximity to minors must be safely secured. This proposal has little to do with making it safer for our children and only impedes our right to self-defense. HB 6962 is a gross overreach of governmental power into our private lives and homes. At the end of the day, it comes down to the fact that all households are different and have different needs. This bill would expand the current law to encompass every home, not only those with young children residing in them, and apply to unloaded firearms that pose no threat to anyone. **This one-size-fits-all approach is a solution to a non-existent problem and is both over-reaching and not based on fact.**

Once again I urge you to oppose SB 650, HB 6848 and HB 6962.

Respectfully,



Thomas R. Violante