

Testimony for Public Hearing  
Judiciary Committee  
March 11, 2015

Kurt Weisheit  
Terryville, CT

**OPPOSE: Governor's H.B. No. 6848 - AN ACT PROTECTING VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**

Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee,

I would like to express my sincere **opposition** to Governor's Bill No. 6848.

Similar to SB 650, this bill attempts to confiscate firearms based solely upon a simple accusation by another person, without affording an accused the right of “due process” in a court of law. It is disguised as something which would help victims of ‘domestic violence’, even though it is more likely to get a victim killed when the state disarms them based on a Temporary Restraining Order filed by a malicious domestic abuser who is intent on doing harm.

This bill also seeks to limit the ability for a person impacted by a TRO to transfer their firearms to a federally licensed firearms dealer (FFL) or another eligible person, and requires them to instead surrender their property to the state. If an accusation proves to be false, significant time, expense, and effort would then be necessary to reacquire one's lawful property. In practice, this means that some firearms, magazines, or ammunition may never be returned, especially if deemed an ‘Assault Weapon’ or ‘Large Capacity Magazine’ since they cannot be transferred at all since the 2013 Gun Ban.

Some will try to claim this bill would not take away due process. However, this bill as currently proposed specifically removes the phrase “and an opportunity to be heard” from the statutes impacted. Connecticut Citizens should be afforded a proper hearing in front of a judge before any property can be seized. The Connecticut Constitution clearly states, “No person shall be...deprived of life, liberty or property without due process of law.” - Article First, Sec. 8. Without due process, a person is guilty until proven innocent. This hardly seems just.

I urge members to vote AGAINST this bill.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Kurt Weisheit