

**Written Testimony for Judiciary Hearing 3/11/15 – Raised Bills SB0650, SB06962, SB06848**

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I strongly oppose raised bills 650, 6962, and 6848, and am personally mortified how legislation that so blatantly defies our system of due process can even get into the pipeline. Our entire system of jurisprudence in America is rooted in due process. The concept runs through a myriad of both Liberal and Conservative issues alike. That being said...

Lawmakers can often have the best intentions toward fixing social problems. And that’s great. But the TRO (*Temporary Restraining Order*) portion of this proposed legislation plainly flunks the Psych 101 test. In other words, it doesn’t think PAST STEP ONE of firearm confiscation. Why?

Statistically, there are requests for about 9000 TROs per year. Out of those 9000, about 1500 respondents will own a firearm.

The family units dealing with these cases are inevitably surrounded by a thunderstorm of emotional equity, fear, and anger. That’s why one of them is filing. Partnerships on the verge of dissolving. Heated conflicts involving children and money. Painful separation of assets. THIS IS WHERE THE PSYCH 101 FAILURE ENTERS THE PICTURE.

The proposed bills will create over 1500 NEW cases of escalating anger and frustration beyond what was already a volatile social situation in those with access to guns. The process of firearms confiscation is a highly emotional event that will, in most cases, result in additional resentment toward the filer. If carried out as proposed, we didn’t DIFFUSE a situation filled with anger... WE JUST DUMPED A BUCKET OF GAS ON IT. How has this been overlooked? Most potential victims will not want to further agitate the respondents. Unless they are pulling a custody stunt. 40% of TRO filings are tossed and never issued.

When domestic violence occurs, factually, LESS THAN 1% OF THE CASES\* are perpetrated with a firearm. Furthermore, the respondents DO NOT need a firearm to commit violence if pushed over the edge... which will happen in more than just a few cases through the confiscation of firearms, ammo, and permit. We will have taken some guns out of the picture, but the official CT Family Violence Statistics below prove that the guns are irrelevant. Over 99% are perpetrated WITHOUT a firearm.

The TRO bills will create hundreds of opportunities for escalated conflict and mayhem that PREVIOUSLY DID NOT EXIST! Revamping the TRO process, as proposed to include gun confiscation at inception of filing... grossly fails the psych 101 test. Please think through the common sense implications.

The proposed bills perhaps intended to make potential victims safer. But, in reality, if passed, they will have INCREASED THE RISK FOR VIOLENCE ACROSS THE POTENTIAL POOL OF VICTIMS.

We will NOT have prevented violence...  
We will have CREATED violence.

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\*CT 2012 Detailed Family Violence Report -weapons used:  
Knives 655  
Other weapons 1,298  
Hand, fist, feet 12,610  
**Guns 160- 0.8%**  
None 5,326

