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## **Connecticut Citizens Defense League, Inc.**

### **Judiciary Committee Public Hearing 03/11/2015**

**Dear Senator Coleman, Representative Tong, and Members of the Judiciary Committee**

My name is Scott Wilson and I am a resident of New London and I am also the president of the 2A Grassroots Organization- 'Connecticut Citizens Defense League'. I am here today to state that I oppose all three of the following bills being heard today: **HB6962, SB650 AND HB6848**

The gun Bills being heard today will only affect legal gun owners by hampering the ability to gain access to a firearm for self-defense in a home invasion scenario, or to legally possess them at all in some circumstances. If firearms are "All" locked and unloaded, how would an individual actually stop a violent home invader from harming themselves, or other family members?

None of these bills being heard today will prevent guns that are obtained illegally by criminals that wish to inflict harm by robbing, or murdering innocent people. Some of these bills will only create more obstacles for gun owners, and remove 14<sup>th</sup> amendment 'due process' by essentially confiscating firearms from individuals without them being given a proper hearing or proof that a crime was committed. I am asking the committee members today if this is really where we want the direction of the state to be headed in?

None of these bills being heard today are at all fair to individuals that lawfully possess firearms that wish to exercise the 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment. Too many people that are sworn in to office as elected officials are generally dismissive of the gun rights aspect of both the United States, and Connecticut Constitutions. To me it seems that the 'oath of office' for elected officials is only administered as a formality with no real true meaning. I am asking all of you here today to consider 'this point' in a helpful and constructive manner. Rather than looking to for further infringements on our 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment rights, I urge you on behalf of the members CCDL to work towards educating people on firearms safety and storage rather than further punishing good people. I also urge you to take heed to some of the great testimony with regards to statistical information provided by executives of our organization and others as well.

#### **HB6962- AN ACT CONCERNING Firearm Safety-**

This bill removes the discretionary decision making of an individual who owns firearms legally and within property that is controlled by that individual. While no one wants a firearm to end up in the wrong hands, the overwhelming vast majority of gun owners take care of their firearms in a responsible manner. This ill in concept would allow State of Connecticut would again be stretching

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to bear arms in defense  
of himself and the state.**

*Connecticut State Constitution, Article First, Section 15*



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their noses too far inside people's homes. There are already overly sufficient Safe Storage laws in our statutes.

### SB650- AN ACT Concerning Temporary Restraining Orders

The outcome of this bill removes proper due process ordering the removal of firearms without due process. There is great potential for abuse of this proposal if it were to become enacted. No one wants dangerous individuals to have access to firearms, and there are already statutes in place for an individual that is deemed a viable danger to others (**Sec. 29-38c. Seizure of firearms of person posing risk of imminent personal injury to self or others**). A judge can issue a warrant in an expeditious manner if necessary.

### Governor's Bill 6848- AN ACT Protecting Victims of Domestic Violence

I similarly oppose this bill for similar reasons as SB650. Due process is thereby removed, and too many are at risk of unnecessarily losing their legally owned property for extended periods of time, or permanently. There are also no real protections for individuals that have a restraining order filed against them under false pretenses in the concept of this bill either. Therefore, there is little to no fairness with respect to citizens of this state that happen to own guns.

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Depending on when I am slated to speak at this hearing. You either have heard, or will have heard 'ad nauseam' numerous sources of statistical information from other CCDL members or executives that show how the numbers really work and how little will be accomplished to really make a difference in either domestic violence, or the like.

I am asking the committee and the state legislature to consider (in lieu Of these proposals) increased criminal penalties to be imposed on anyone that steals a firearm or uses a firearm to harm or kill someone in an unlawful manner.

I am also asking that after the passage of laws for increased penalties the public at large be educated and made aware of any increase of penalties. Heftier punishment for the real people that are responsible for violent behavior is a step in the right direction, rather than punishing all for the actions of the very few.

Scott Wilson  
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