

Judiciary Committee Public Hearing Testimony

March 11, 2015

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HB 6962 – An Act Concerning Firearm Safety – OPPOSE

While I am a strong proponent of responsible gun ownership, I must urge you to reject this bill.

The changes to “Section 1. Section 29-37i” that remove all of the current exclusions replacing them with “any person” language are vague and poorly written. This can only lead to many unintended consequences and problems.

The portion that replaces “Sec. 4 Subsection (d) of section 29-38c” that reverses the burden of proof obligation, placing the burden of proof on the citizen is completely contrary to the way this nation operates with the concept of “innocent until proven guilty.”

Proposed Bill 650 – An Act Concerning Temporary Restraining Orders – OPPOSE

Assuming that a temporary restraining order is issued on the complaint of one party and the accused has not had the opportunity to present his side of the case as he would have had in the case of a restraining order, I feel that this bill deprives the accused of his right to due process.

Governor’s Bill 6848 – An Act Protecting Victims of Domestic Violence – OPPOSE

This bill seems to change the existing process where someone who has to give up their firearms could transfer them to a third party to hold until things have been settled and now require that the person sell their firearms to an FFL dealer. If I understand this correctly, forcing someone to permanently dispose of their firearms when the order that is causing this might be appealed or they might become eligible at a later time to have the property returned is not right. I also do not see the need to include ammunition in the surrender process at all.

Comment

Last session you passed poorly written and ill conceived legislation allegedly intended to control the massive amount of gun violence carried out with assault rifles, ignoring the fact that the majority of crime is carried out with handguns.

In your rush to control assault rifles you caused several types of unintended consequences, one of which was to cause thousands of people who previously had no intention of every owning an assault rifle to run out and buy one.

I ask you to please be more responsible in your actions this session.