

# Testimony of Chris Kalkreuth 3/11/2015

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Honorable members of the Judiciary Committee, my name is Chris Kalkreuth of Middlefield. I am a lifelong CT resident, long-time firearm owner, pistol permit holder, range safety officer, hunter and competitive shooter.

I am writing to you today to voice my opposition to the numerous gun control bills proposed for your review today, specifically HB 6962, SB 650 and HB 6848. These bills prevent us lawful gun owners from keeping firearms in a manner that allows us to use them in any meaningful way should they quickly become necessary when in the privacy of one's own home. Some of these bills seek to further remove due process, streamlining firearm confiscation scenarios or worse legitimize the past abusive practices of certain state agencies. Sadly it is also increasingly evident to me that for some of our legislative officials the oath of office is far more procedural than it is anything based in reality.

**HB 6962:** I OPPOSE the proposed changes because the laws as they exist right now are rather strong and I feel strike a reasonable balance of precaution and responsibility. It is a well-known fact that children are attracted to and can operate firearms. That said expanding the language of this bill in the proposed way makes it so that I have to treat every single visiting adult that comes into my home as a potential criminal and applies whether a firearm is loaded or not! I currently live alone in my home. Should I choose to keep firearms (and I do), the moment that I have a visitor, this new law would force me to treat every visitor as a potential gun swiping criminal! Furthermore, if I choose to assert my right to firearm ownership pursuant to self-defense at that time the law would require me to keep whatever firearm I choose to use for this task directly on my person or in a gun safe! I keep firearms essentially for personal defense, they are able to be quickly retrieved by me and put into action in the unfortunate event that I must defend myself or someone within my mantle of protection without keeping a sidearm loaded and holstered on my belt at all times! Any law that is written in a way which restricts the freedom and rights of individuals should aim to solve a real problem. Do we really have a rash of incidents where adults are wandering through other people's homes and stealing their firearms? The answer is NO. Treating every adult that walks through your threshold in the same manner as a minor is not going to reduce gun violence, crime or personal injuries. Furthermore it places us lawful gun owners at greater risk by reducing our ability to respond and defend ourselves in our own homes should the need arise. Unless of course we follow the one exemption in the new law and start walking around our houses the same way an on-duty police officer walks his beat!

**SB 650:** I OPPOSE because an ex-parte Temporary Restraining Order can be leveraged very easily in a manner that potentially creates more victims of domestic violence than it would save as ex-parte orders can be issued essentially by one party making a claim that gets such an order issued. To echo Attorney Rachael Baird's letter to Governor Malloy and others (which you should read very closely, <http://ctcarry.com/Document/Download/cf92f17d-18f7-44a1-aafd->

[8581f2b9b5f3](#)), various State Agencies have been abusing their power by violating state law, entering unlawful orders and having state police threaten felony arrest for non-compliance in cases of Temporary Restraining Orders which are very different from actual Restraining Orders. When you are arrested on suspicion of a family violence crime you get your hearing on the next business day, when a TRO is issued and you've never been arrested you have to wait up to 14 days for such a hearing to even respond to the order! The concept that individuals not arrested should enjoy less due process than those who are arrested cannot be justified! State agencies are attempting to make their past actions legal once again since they were recently ordered to cease this abusive practice.

**HB 6848:** I OPPOSE for reasons similar to SB650 in that due process is once again removed firearm seizure of an otherwise lawful citizen and provides absolutely no protection or recourse for a citizen whom a restraining or other protective order is filed under false pretense.