

Raised House Bill No. 7028 public hearing 3/20/2015

Regarding H.B. 7028:

The specific part of the bill I am addressing with this testimony is the part regarding "PRESENTATION OF A CARRY PERMIT". This section goes:

Sec. 24. Subsection (b) of section 29-35 of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (Effective October 1, 2015):

(b) The holder of a permit issued pursuant to section 29-28 shall carry such permit upon one's person while carrying such pistol or revolver. Such holder shall present his or her permit upon the request of a law enforcement officer for purposes of verification of the validity of the permit or identification of the holder.

Connecticut does not have any "stop and identify" law. (Motor vehicle laws are different. You consent to being stopped while driving when you get your driver's license). The US Supreme Court has generally upheld that police may not stop a person and ask for identification without a reasonable suspicion that a crime has been or is about to be committed.

This proposed bill changes that, and treats a certain specific class of people (gun owners that exercise their RIGHT to carry) like second-class citizens, simply because they have a legally owned and properly permitted object on their person.

The most degrading part of this bill is the implication is that while a person is carrying, that person would be subject to a stop and identify at ANY TIME, having committed NO CRIME or being suspected of having committed a crime. This directly violates the 4th amendment to the constitution regarding warrant-less, illegal searches.

Current laws on the books already make allowances for the situations where the LEO confronting the citizen may have Reasonable Articulated Suspicion that the citizen may be a person of interest in a crime. In those cases the citizen is already required to comply with a request to display his or her permit, if the LEO determines that firearms are being carried. This proposed law is not required or even desirable as it's utility is very suspect as I shall demonstrate in the next paragraph.

Lets apply some common sense thinking here. We're all about common sense laws, right? If a person is concealed carrying, no one will see the weapon and thus a police officer would not be prompted to ask about a carry permit. In that case the proposed law is ineffective. As far as the open carry situation, (which by the way is NOT A CRIME in CT) do you really, seriously believe that criminals walk around open carrying? The result is that you would only be stopping (dare I say harassing?) law abiding citizens, again what effect on crime or public safety is the law having here?

Finally, again citing the 4th amendment, it is unconstitutional to randomly stop and force a person to show identification is they have not committed a crime, and are not suspected of having committed a crime.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely,

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