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I am here to talk about HB 7028. It has 2 parts; one is access to the firearms database by parole officers and a requirement for a person to show his permit on request of verification of the holder. Why should parole officer have access to firearms database since felons by law cannot own a firearm, cannot purchase a gun, and the state now requires a second background check that must be approved for each firearm that is purchased. This is redundant and creates a higher risk that information in the firearms database can be exposed or leaked compromising the personal data that is collected.

Showing a pistol permit when requested as written violates the 4th, 5th and 14th amendment of the Constitution, which protects against arbitrary arrests, and is the basis of the law regarding search warrants, stop-and-frisk, and central to many other criminal law topics.

The key issue is the "reasonable articulate suspicion" for requesting the permit. Just as with driver's license (driving is a privilege, not a right), a police officer cannot ask for a driver's license unless there is reasonable articulate suspicion of a crime.

A year ago, 2 gentlemen were walking the boardwalk in West Haven. Both were carrying their pistols on their hip in the open. Police officers saw them walk and came up to them from the rear and requested their permits. One showed his permit and the other one refused because there was no reasonable articulate suspicion. The one that refused was arrested and during the booking procedures, his permit was in his wallet.

The mere fact that you are carrying a firearm unconcealed does not meet the Reasonable Articulate Suspicion (RAS) necessary to detain an individual. Therefore, there is no statutory requirement for a person to provide a pistol permit when they are not otherwise suspected of a crime. Citizens exercising this right should be aware that they are likely to face harassment, threats and even unlawful arrest by police officers if they refuse to show their permit on demand by police officers. This has occurred previously, and it was ruled that the officer lacked RAS to stop the defendant.

The reason for the requested change is based on this case and is being pushed by Commissioner of Department of Emergency Services And Public Protection for intimidation and harassment. Let's use some common sense since a criminal will not open carry their pistol, they will conceal it. This is just another example of back door economic gun control and to stigmatize lawful gun owners.