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Connecticut Citizens Defense League, Inc.

Judiciary Committee Public Hearing 03/20/2015

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 wish that I could attend the hearing, but due to work obligations I cannot. I strongly oppose HB7028 for a couple of reasons.

- 1) Giving Parole officers access to the firearms database without safeguarding the privacy of other individuals that may live in in the same household is tantamount a "police-state like environments", Parolees are released with certain conditions that they must abide by in order to live outside the confines of a correctional institution. It is the State's obligation to us (the citizenry) to not release anyone that will be problematic to the rest of society. In other words, it is the obligation of the parole to know that he or she cannot possess or touch a firearm of any kind. So I ask this of our Judiciary committee: If you are so concerned about parolees gaining access to firearms that are lawfully owned, then why is he or she being released back into society? As a continual 20+ year volunteer with the Department of Corrections, I believe that people deserve a 2nd chance in society, but only if they are not a threat to anyone. Again it is as though the state wishes to harass and blame law abiding gun owners and not those that are responsible for perpetrating crimes.
- 2) Carrying a firearm is a lawful act. If someone sees an individual carrying a gun, and not breaking any laws or threatening the public then there should be a presumption of no wrong doing. I will go so far as to say that if you are carrying a firearm illegally, then concealment would be more prudent. Hopefully common sense points this notion out. Our organization supports the lawful carrying of firearms by whatever legal means. Open carry is legal in some form in 46 of the 50 states.

Our organization has been at the receiving end of emails and phone calls from people that have been unfairly harassed and/or arrested since we formed in 2009. We see the solution in educating both law enforcement and the public about lawful gun owners. As citizens, we are entitled our constitutional protections under the constitution of Connecticut, and the United States.

Scott Wilson
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**Every citizen has a right
to bear arms in defense
of himself and the state.**

Connecticut State Constitution, Article First, Section 15