



BILL FINCH
Mayor

March 11, 2015

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
CITY OF BRIDGEPORT, CONNECTICUT
MARGARET E. MORTON GOVERNMENT CENTER

999 BROAD STREET
BRIDGEPORT, CONNECTICUT 06604
TELEPHONE (203) 576-7201
FAX (203) 576-3913

Committee on Judiciary
Connecticut General Assembly
Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT 06106

Re: S.B. 650: An Act Concerning Temporary Restraining Orders

Thank you Senator Coleman, Representative Tong, and members of the committee for the opportunity to testify before you today. I'm here to support an act protecting victims of domestic violence.

The truth is simple: We need to get guns out of the hands of people who use them to harm others. That's why in 2013, I endorsed Governor Malloy's gun control legislation, which among other things authorized universal background checks for all firearm purchases and created a dangerous weapon offender registry.

It's also why I launched an aggressive [Gun Buyback](#) program, which has already taken nearly 10,000 guns off the streets of Bridgeport. Weapons that can never be used again to hurt or kill.

We've made progress, but there is still more we must do to protect our children and our families, especially those who are victims of domestic violence.

This bill is a step in the right direction. It requires the subject of a restraining or protective order to transfer any firearms and ammunition they possess within 24 hours to a federally-licensed arms dealer or to the Commissioner of Emergency Services and Public Protection.

This bill is straightforward. The period shortly after a domestic violence incident is some of the most dangerous for victims. This leaves them vulnerable to another violent, and sometimes fatal, attack.

This bill would take guns out of the hands of alleged domestic abusers. It would further protect victims of domestic violence, whose lives are still at risk. And, it could potentially avoid a fatal confrontation.

This legislation doesn't solve the issue of domestic violence entirely, but it is a step in the right direction.

We cannot reverse the violent actions of the past, but we can prevent the violent actions of the future.

And if a judge thinks a temporary restraining order is warranted because a particular person poses a threat, then it should follow that the person should not have access to a firearm.

I urge the committee to pass this bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bill Finch". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the right of the word "Sincerely,".

Bill Finch
Mayor of Bridgeport