

Ann Colloton

34 Thomson Rd.

West Hartford, CT 06107

Written Testimony to the Judiciary Committee **in support** of Proposed SB 650, HB 6848

I am writing to encourage you to vote YES for HB 6848 and SB 650 which would make domestic violence victims safer at a time when they are most vulnerable—when they finally get up the courage to apply for a restraining order.

Twenty other states have statutes similar to that being proposed here that allow firearms to be removed after an ex-parte restraining order has been issued, and those states saw a 12-13% reduction in intimate partner homicides. This law has been shown to save lives.

I attended the public hearing yesterday where I heard questions from legislators about due process and second amendments rights, and other technicalities and misrepresentations that were a distraction to the real problem.

Under current law, when someone has a temporary restraining order issued against them, they are told they cannot go certain places or be with certain people, including frequently their own home, and their liberty is restricted in many ways. *No legislators complained about due process in regard to those rights being taken away, so why are they so upset about ensuring due process when guns are being taken away temporarily?* When guns are involved in domestic disputes, everyone is more at risk--victims, abusers, children. Removing guns earlier would reduce the risk of injury, death, and more criminal charges in an already highly explosive situation.

If at the hearing for a full restraining order that is held within 14 days a judge determines there is not enough evidence to issue a full restraining order, the firearms are returned. *If a person is judged to be a law abiding citizen, their firearms are returned.* If a person is judged to be a risk, their guns are removed for a longer period of time. That makes common sense. I do not feel bad if a non-law abiding citizen then has to wait two years to get their gun permit re-issued. That is a penalty you pay for breaking the law.

Potential problems raised about the transfer/delivery of guns/ownership were a superfluous attempt to derail the bill. The same procedures will be followed by law enforcement, licensed gun dealers and defendants if the proposed bill passes as are currently used for full restraining orders. The process has worked in the past and is working now. *This bill does not invent a new, complicated procedure—it simply changes the time frame when guns can be removed, thus making a victim safer at the most vulnerable time.*

Please support SB 650 and HB 6848. They make positive changes to the current law protecting domestic violence victims in Connecticut.

--

Ann Colloton
hm: 860-578-9986
cell: 860-709-1684