

Moniz-Carroll, Rhonda

From: Tiffany Hawley <tiffany367@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 09, 2015 11:50 PM
To: JudTestimony
Subject: Oppose

Current law already provides a mechanism for committing dangerous persons involuntarily in an emergency situation, which already results in the committed person being prohibited from possessing firearms. Furthermore, Connecticut law already provides for "imminent risk warrants" to be issued, allowing law enforcement to seize firearms and ammunition when probable cause exists to warrant such necessary action. This bill takes unnecessary steps to blatantly circumvent your rights.

It's important for gun owners to have the opportunity to put up their own defense before losing their Second Amendment rights. This bill's low evidentiary standards and lack of a mechanism for individuals to present their own defense before being deprived of their constitutional rights is unacceptable.

Governor Dan Malloy's bill, [HB 6848](#), similarly seeks to confiscate legally-acquired firearms and ammunition without due process of the law. This bill would give those served with a restraining or protective order 24 hours to transfer all firearms and ammunition to a federally licensed firearms dealer (FFL) or surrender them to the Commissioner of Emergency Services and Protection. HB 6848 does not provide a way for these rights or possessions to be restored.

Sponsored by the Judiciary Committee, [House Bill 6962](#), or the "Burglar Protection Act," would impose liability and penalties on firearm owners that do not lock up their *unloaded* firearms to prevent any person (not only minors) from potentially accessing the firearm. Data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) indicate that nationally since 1975, the annual number of firearm accident deaths among children ages 0-14 has declined by 87 percent, even as population, the number of gun owners and the number of guns owned have risen substantially. Their reports also indicate that children are more likely to suffocate (27%), drown (17%), be accidentally poisoned (2.2%), or perish from an accidental fall (1.6%) and are as likely to die in a non-traffic bicycle and tricycle accident (1.5%) as they are in a firearm accident (1.5%).

It is already law in Connecticut that loaded firearms within close proximity to minors must be safely secured. This proposal has little to do with making it safer for children and only impedes your right to self-defense. HB 6962 is a gross overreach of governmental power into your private lives and homes. At the end of the day, it comes down to the fact that all households are different and have different needs. This bill would expand the current law to encompass every home, not only those with young children residing in them, and apply to unloaded firearms that pose no threat to anyone. This one-size fits all approach is a solution to a non-existent problem and is both over-reaching and not based on fact.

Tiffany Hawley
Wife, Mother and Responsible gun owner