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Sent: Tuesday, March 10, 2015 8:03 AM
To: JudTestimony
Subject: Raised Bill No. 6962

**State of Connecticut General Assembly
Joint Committee on Judiciary
March 11, 2015**

Subject: Raised Bill No. 6962, An Act Concerning Firearm Safety

My name is John Chunis. I live in Rocky Hill, Connecticut

I oppose the subject bill, as currently written, because of a significant omission that would make someone liable for the unlawful actions of another person.

Sec 3 of the bill rewords Statute 53a-217a concerning (a) **criminal negligence** in storage of a firearm.

Subsection (b) further states that **“this section shall not apply if a person obtains the firearm as a result of an unlawful entry to any premises by any person.”**

This is totally appropriate, as one should not be held as criminally negligent (which is a Class D felony) in criminal court, because of the unlawful actions of another person.

However, Sec 2 of the bill, discussing **strict liability for damages** in statute 52-571g, does not have this exclusion.

As currently written, a person would be liable for damages in civil court if someone breaks into his home (which is unlawful entry), steals a firearm and uses it for an unlawful act.

Adding the same exclusion; **“this section shall not apply if a person obtains the firearm as a result of an unlawful entry to any premises by any person,”** to statute 52-571g on strict liability would resolve this significant omission and also make it compatible with Section 53a-217a on criminal negligence.

In summary, one should not be held liable in civil court because of the unlawful actions of another person.

Thank you for allowing me to present my testimony.