

Judiciary Committee Testimony Raised Bill No. 6962
Public Hearing Mar 11, 2015

Co-Chair: Senator Coleman
Co-Chair: Representative Tong
Members of the Committee

My name is Bruce Tolhurst
I live in Marlborough, CT

I am writing to you to **OPPOSE** Raised Bill No. 6962: **AN ACT CONCERNING FIREARM SAFETY.**

This bill proposes a definition expanding the reasons for, the events surrounding and the requirements for "securing a firearm". These definitions go far beyond what should be expected of 'a reasonable person'. The inclusion of "obtains the firearm . . . and causes the injury or death to himself or herself . . .", (suicide), is extremely onerous. This makes all firearms owners essentially responsible for suicides committed with a firearm.

Even more disturbingly, the bill then goes on to change the burden of proof for a defendant during a risk warrant hearing. This changes the current 'innocent until proven guilty' system, which is already heavily perverted by the risk warrant law, and makes it clear that upon an accusation, I am guilty until proven innocent.

This is why I am against this bill? This bill is trying to make law out of how the police and prosecutors have been trying to pervert the laws in this state for many years now. We have been fighting against these injustices, often on the grounds that they are not following the law. Now, you, the legislature appear to be willing to just change the law to make those perversions the law Connecticut. But how is it ok to tell me how I must store my private property when it is already behind the locked doors in my home? Do we also require people to lock up the keys to their cars and charge them criminally and civilly if someone steals their car and injures someone? I do not want to live in a state where police raid can my home and take my property on an accusation, and then I am assumed guilty until proven innocent? How can you, as a legislative official, sworn to uphold the Constitution of the State of Connecticut, even suggest such a perversion of our justice system with a straight face?

As the owner and responsible user of firearms for both recreation use and personal protection this proposed bill objectionable and unnecessary. I strongly urge you to **OPPOSE** this proposed bill and let it 'die in committee'.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful considerations on this proposed bill.

Bruce A. Tolhurst
16 Virginia Rail Dr.
Marlborough, CT 06447
860-295-0327