

As an auctioneer of antiques in Connecticut I spend a great deal of my time working with seniors, helping them raise money from antiques and art inherited or collected over the years.

I read bill 227 with dismay as such a law would render countless thousands of art and antique objects worthless and subject thousands of citizens to possible fines and prosecutions of items **they may not even know** contain ivory.

Furthermore, no one has demonstrated that the trade of antique objects containing ivory has any effect whatsoever on the survival of Elephants in Africa. Our efforts would be better placed helping Africans create eco-tourist economies that motivate locals to protect elephants rather than slaughter them.

What concerns me most is the likelihood such a law will be passed without any funding for enforcement which would lead to selective enforcement. The state is already struggling mightily to meet its basic funding responsibilities. Can any responsible legislator vote to spend money on a law that only extends existing Federal law to ban antiques and art containing ivory that is more than 100 years old?

Regards,

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