



UNITED STATES SENATE  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

**TESTIMONY OF  
U.S. SENATOR RICHARD BLUMENTHAL  
BEFORE THE  
JUDICIARY COMMITTEE**

**MARCH 14, 2016**

I appreciate the opportunity to submit comments in support of House Bill 5054, An Act Protecting Victims of Domestic Violence.

This proposal enhances the safety of domestic violence victims by removing firearms from a person who has been served with a temporary restraining order, facilitates the service of temporary restraining orders through the state marshal's office and restricts the issuance of gun and ammunition permits to an individual who has been served with a temporary restraining order.

The link between guns and domestic violence is a deadly one. Women who are in an abusive relationship are 5 times more likely to be killed if the abuser has access to a firearm. Since 2000, each year Connecticut has averaged 14 intimate partner homicides, with firearms being the single largest weapon involved in those murders. And the general public is also at risk – in Kansas, an abuser was served with a temporary restraining order at his place of employment and shortly after the service of the order, he shot and killed three co-workers.

Yet, these numbers do not accurately reflect the death of these personal tragedies. I have spoken with the family of Lori Jackson, who was killed with a gun by her estranged husband after he was served with a temporary restraining order. Lori's mother – a true model of strength – not only suffered the death of her daughter, she was seriously injured after being shot by Lori's husband as well. As a founder of Men Make a Difference, Men Against Domestic Violence through Interval House, I have heard first hand the emotion and the fear that domestic violence survivors feel, especially when making a decision to leave their abuser.

Listen to Mrs. Jackson, to Lori's sister, and countless other family members of domestic violence victims and domestic violence survivors.

When domestic abusers are the most dangerous, at the height of their rage, the law – both in Connecticut and on the federal level – is the weakest. Federal and state law currently provide for removal of firearms from domestic abusers if they are served with an ex parte temporary restraining order. I am working with my Senate colleagues to pass the Lori Jackson Domestic Violence Survivor Protection Act which would restrict those under a temporary restraining order from purchasing or possessing a firearm.

Connecticut should follow the lead of at least 20 other states and adopt a state version of the Lori Jackson Domestic Violence Survivor Protection Act. House Bill 5054 would do just that – and more. I strongly urge the Judiciary Committee to favorably consider House Bill 5054.