

WRITTEN TESTIMONY FOR PUBLIC HEARING – 3/14/2016 - HB 5054

THE 3 ACTIVE VOTERS IN OUR HOUSEHOLD URGE YOU TO OPPOSE

HB 5054 ‘AN ACT PROTECTING VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE’

Our main concern is that this bill will violate ‘Due Process’ without the opportunity for a hearing prior to the forced surrender of firearms.

There are several laws already on the books, (Sec.29-38c and Sec.46b-38b), that allow seizure of firearms while addressing some of the above concerns.

It would be easy for the perpetrator to file the Ex Parte Restraining Order against the person to whom they are after. This would then take the protection away from the one who needs it.

The potential does exist for someone with a grudge to file a claim to harass or harm an innocent person.

Additional Concerns are as follows:

- This bill violates the 2nd Amendment and CT State Constitution.
- This bill would impose criminal penalties and fines if the 24 hour window is not met.
- This bill has no provision for the return of legally registered “Assault Weapons” or “Large Capacity Magazines” (as now defined by state statutes). Once surrendered they may not be transferred back.
- Firearms that are transferred to a FFL may require the recipient of an Ex Parte TRO to pay hefty transfer fees.
- Nearly half of all Ex Parte Restraining Orders in 2014 were vacated and did not get ordered by a judge to become a Full Restraining Order.
- In 2015, 37% of all ex Parte temporary restraining orders were found not to be valid after the hearing.

Sincerely,

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