

Carroll, Rhonda

From: Ann Colloton <collotonlaney@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 17, 2016 10:39 PM
To: JudTestimony
Subject: HB 5054

I am writing to express my support for H.B. 5054: An Act Protecting Victims of Domestic Violence.

Current Connecticut restraining order law can deny accused domestic abusers access to their home and their family during the initial two week period, but they are allowed to keep their firearms. If at the two week hearing, the judge determines the victim is at continued risk, the restraining order is extended for a full year and the abuser must *then* surrender their firearms.

Access to a gun in an abusive relationship makes it five times more likely that the woman will be killed. And research shows this initial two week period is the *most dangerous time* for the victim. So, why do we not also remove guns during this most dangerous two week period? H.B. 5054 would close this loop hole. If at the two week hearing the judge determines that the restraining order doesn't need to be extended, firearms are returned and permits re-issued.

Gun rights advocates say the bill would violate due process. But 20 other states have similar laws, and all court challenges regarding due process have been unsuccessful. Strict 2nd amendment advocates may not like it, but H.B. 5054 is constitutional and will save lives.

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