

Members of the Judiciary Committee,

I OPPOSE HB 5054 'An act protecting victims of domestic violence'.

This bill not only violates the 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment and Due Process but it also violates the CT State Constitution.

This bill would take away a person's natural right of protection without a hearing, without a criminal charges, without a police report and without due process. Police reports are often times not even filed when obtaining a temporary restraining order, even though the police are trained to administer the Lethality Risk Assessment, which is the evidence-based instrument that's used to identify domestic violence victims who are at heightened risk of injury or worse.

I strongly believe if a crime is serious enough to cause an individual to lose a fundamental constitutional right, then that crime should be serious enough for a police investigation.

There are several laws already on the books (Sec 29-38c and Sec 46b-38b) that allow the seizure of firearms while addressing some of the above mentioned concerns. Opponents of those laws claim that some people are too scared to involve the police, but the police and marshals must still be involved if this bill passes.

Many states, including Connecticut, already prohibit people with violent misdemeanor convictions from acquiring or possessing firearms or ammunition, regardless of the offender's relationship to the victim. In the tragic 2014 case of Lori Jackson, the firearm used to kill her was purchased out of state and the restraining order couldn't be served because the respondent had left the state. This bill wouldn't have prevented that tragedy from occurring .

I remember sitting at the hearing last March listening to Mary Jackson testify about the death of her daughter Lori. My eyes filled with tears and my heart ached for her.

"We knew we were in danger. We tried to protect ourselves. We had ADT installed. My daughter and myself, we wore panic buttons so if we were outside the house and he approached us it would automatically call the police"

I couldn't help but to wonder if things may have turned out differently if Mary and/or Lori had a firearm for protection that day as the estranged husband broke through those two locked doors.

Please OPPOSE H.B 5054

Jenn Gleason  
CCDL Member  
Waterbury CT.