

**BARRY MICHELSON**

RE: HB 5054

March 10, 2016

TO: JUDIARY COMMITTEE

**AN ACT PROTECTING VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**

We live in an exceptional country, a country that is like no other in the world. What makes us exceptional is our Constitution. A Constitution that guarantees to each and every citizen certain inalienable rights and protections. One such right is the Fourth Amendment that guarantees protection against seizure of personal property without cause supported by an oath of affirmation, a properly executed court order. The Fifth and Fourteenth Amendments assure the rights and equality of all citizens and protect us all from procedural confiscation of our property without due process.

It is the duty of every citizen to protect the Constitution and the duty of every legislator to make sure that the Constitution is vigorously upheld. An assault of one right is nothing short of an assault on all rights. To quote Ben Franklin:

*"Any society that would give up a little liberty to gain a little security will deserve neither and lose both."*

HB 5054 must be rejected!

Innocent until proven guilty, a cornerstone precept of our democracy is being turned upside down by HB 5054. The presumption of guilt, resulting in confiscation, without due process is clearly contrary to the protections and safeguards afforded under the Constitution, or more succinctly is a blatant trampling of the Constitution.

Protection of domestic violence victims is a laudable objective that can very easily be done within the confines of our Constitution.

As our elected officials, you are the voted representatives of all the people and are obligated, or in stronger terms, it is your duty to make certain that the guarantees of the Constitution are upheld and not infringed upon in any manner, shape or form.

HB 5054 must be opposed and voted against!

Thank you for your attention and service,

Barry Michelson

Stamford, Connecticut