

Carroll, Rhonda

From: aspines <aspines@aol.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 15, 2016 9:47 AM
To: JudTestimony
Subject: Testimony in support of Domestic Violence bill HB 5054

March 14, 2016

Testimony in support of Domestic Violence bill HB 5054

Hello Chairman and members of the committee.

My name is Amy Pines. Thank you for listening today.

I felt it was important to come up here and testify today, because I feel so strongly that to leave guns in a situation at the moment of the filing and service of a restraining order, is to allow for the possibility for people to be shot.

I am here today to share from experience, how incredibly vulnerable to violence people are at the flashpoint moment of crises that finds them at that exact week, exact day, exact moment ...where a restraining order has been filed.

I am here to tell you,

- if you have never been in a situation that required you to need a restraining order- that to file one is not an easy decision to come to, and a horribly upsetting thing to have to do.

What I believe, from personally going through it, is that no one at the point of filing for a restraining order has arrived at that moment, unless their life has gotten totally, utterly out of control. I would even bet that only a fraction of people who could be helped by one, even file for one, because it is so incredibly hard to face the fact that a relationship (usually with a LOVED one) has deteriorated to that point, and to bring yourself to go to authorities for help. I find the assertions that people would apply for a TRO out of spite or for non truthful reasons, offensive.

These highly-charged, horrible situations happen to regular, everyday CT people. Not a distinct, violent group of people. Your friends, your family members your colleagues... Anyone can find themselves at a point when they are experiencing the most wrenching, sad, angry, scared, literally unbelievable moments of their lives. People filing or being served with a restraining order can both be stretched to their emotional limits and then beyond. They are often experiencing a tear in the actual fiber of their lives that they never thought was even possible...They feel they are losing control of their lives... At the time when a restraining order is filed and served, people need help. People need to be protected. They need help in de-escalating these situations. They need to be protected from each other, and from themselves. If a gun is present in this situation, during these times of extreme stress- it makes it infinitely more likely for someone to be shot and/or killed in one horrible instant. Leaving a gun in this situation allows for terrible, permanent things to happen.

So I arranged for help with my kids today, and drove over an hour up here, sat through all the discussion this morning, and am exposing this experience from my past, to urge you to take this common sense step to close this loophole and to protect your constituents while they are in this moment of crises.

Please support Bill, (HB5054) that would prohibit people against whom a TRO is served from possessing guns during this very volatile and dangerous time. Thank you.

Sent from my busy busy life:)

Sent from my busy busy life:)