



CCDL, Inc.
PO Box 642
Groton, CT 06340
www.ccdl.us

Connecticut Citizens Defense League, Inc.

Senator Coleman, Representative Tong, and honorable members of the Joint Committee on Judiciary, My name is Chris Lemos and I am a resident of Stratford. I am also a certified firearms instructor and the Vice President of the Connecticut Citizens Defense League.

I am writing today in opposition to HB5622 'AN ACT CONCERNING THE AVAILABILITY OF ERASED RECORDS IN DETERMINING WHETHER A PERSON IS A SUITABLE PERSON TO CARRY A PISTOL OR REVOLVER'

Connecticut's Criminal Records Erasure Statute, Conn. Gen. Stat. § 54-142a requires that criminal records related to an arrest be destroyed if the individual is subsequently found not guilty or pardoned or if the charges are nolleed or dismissed. The statute further provides that "*[a]ny person who shall have been the subject of such an erasure shall be deemed to have never been arrested within the meaning of the general statutes with respect to the proceedings so erased and may so swear under oath.*"

We have this Erasure Statute to protect people who under our laws were not guilty of a crime from being persecuted in the future for a crime they did not commit. Yet this bill proposes to do just that. It is an attempt to punish someone who has been deemed innocent under state and federal law, by depriving them of a constitutional right. It is a founding principle of our country that a person is innocent until proven guilty. People subject to § 54-142a are innocent, with **ALL** the rights of a citizen of this state. Please treat them that way.

Thank you for your service to the people of Connecticut, and for your time and consideration on this matter.

Chris Lemos
Stratford, CT

Every citizen has a right
to bear arms in defense
of himself and the state.

Connecticut State Constitution, Article First, Section 15