

March 14, 2016

Judiciary Committee
Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Senator Coleman, Representative Tong, and Honorary Members of the Judiciary Committee;

Oppose: H.B. No. 5054 AA PROTECTING VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Oppose: H.B. No. 5623 AAC VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND VICTIMS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING

I wish to voice my opposition to these bills that will remove firearms, solely based on EX PARTE orders. These bills will also disarm true domestic violence victims of their firearms, the same firearm they sought out to protect themselves. As you may be aware, abuse and false ex parte temporary restraining orders are the norm for the state of Connecticut. Abuser themselves often seek false TRO against their victims. This is just an added way for abuser to attempt to have control over their victims. I ask that no one be disarmed until given the opportunity to be heard by a judge. Where then and only then can a judge be able to determine who the real victim is.

Over ten years ago, a convicted felon, who I had never met prior, filed for, and was granted, an ex parte TRO against myself. He filed for the ex parte TRO on behalf of his estranged children. This person was previously convicted of violating multiple restraining orders. At the time the mother and I were living together with the children, I'm assuming he did this as an attempt to remove me from the situation. He signed a false ex parte TRO stating I was using corporal punishment on his child. If these bills were law, the very same firearms we purchased and carried to protect ourselves and our family, from this felon would have been removed. You CANNOT pass a bill that will allow abusers to remove firearms from the real victims. There are many people who choose to arm themselves for protection. PLEASE don't allow abusers to disarm them. For this reason, I ask for you to oppose such legislation and allow the current gun seizer laws be utilized.

SUPPORT: H.B. No. 5597 AN ACT PROTECTING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE VICTIMS SEEKING RESTRAINING ORDERS

I ask that you support H.B. No. 5597, as a better alternative to the previously mentioned bills (H.B. 5054, H.B.5623). H.B. 5597 utilizes existing law. Opponents of this bill may argue that this bill requires police involvement. I would like to point out that the same bills the opposition is supporting ALSO requires police to be involved.

I truly thank you for the opportunity to submit my written testimony and for your time.

Sincerely,
Ray Bevis
Wolcott, CT 06716