

To the Connecticut General Assembly and whom it may concern:

I am writing to voice my concerns about Connecticut's legislators and the Governor's continued vigorous pursuit to deny basic constitutional rights to Connecticut citizens. I am a firearm owner and avid hunter and have stood silent for too long while Governor Molloy and his cohorts have slowly pecked away at my 2nd amendment rights and my right to due process.

The idea that someone can essentially be immediately treated as a convicted felon as the result of an "ex parte" application is ludicrous. Anyone who does not like firearms, is offended by firearms, or just wants to "get even" with another individual can file for a restraining order. This proposed legislation will then deny the respondent his/her right to due process and his/her right to keep and bear arms. It astounds me that these two basic rights afforded to all United States citizens will be denied to Connecticut residents because Governor Malloy and his cohorts do not like firearms. If they do not like firearms, they have the right not to buy them. I have been afforded the right to own firearms by the Constitution of the United States of America. If the Governor and his cohorts wish to seize those firearms, it should be done through due process, a fundamental common law process afforded to all citizens. Besides, Connecticut already has laws that deny possession, and allow for the removal of firearms.

The Connecticut General Assembly proposals are going the wrong way. House Bills 5622, 5623, and 5054 should be scrapped and relegated to a paper shredder. The Assembly should reverse its course and consider alternatives that strengthen the fundamental right to protect oneself. How about accelerated approval of firearm permits for victims of violent crimes? Or accelerated permit approval and free firearm training for women who have suffered domestic abuse? How about a nationwide firearm carry policy, if not for everyone then the victims of violent crime so they can be protected wherever they are?

In 2014, 45% of all ex parte restraining orders were found not to be valid after the hearing. In 2015, 37% were found not to be valid. If these bills were in place at the time of those orders, more than a third of all Connecticut citizens who were respondents would have been denied basic, fundamental rights afforded to all citizens. Why? Because Governor Malloy and his cohorts do not like firearms.

Taking away a person's natural right of protection without a hearing, without criminal charges, without a police report, and without due process is no way to protect Connecticut's citizens.

It is also time to revisit past gun grabbing legislation and repeal the ban on so called "assault" weapons. The weapon of choice for terrorist is an AK-47 style rifle. Terrorists have no regard for the law, therefore I should be able to defend myself against an AK-47 style rifle. Governor Malloy has an armed contingent to protect him, so he does not have to worry. How am I supposed to defend myself and my family if Connecticut continues to chip away at my right to self-defense?

Most people in this state and this country believe in the constitutional protections afforded to all of us. It's time to listen. I vehemently oppose the gun grabbing bills before the Assembly.

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