

**Carroll, Rhonda**

---

**From:** Matthew McBrien <ironwrench76@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, March 14, 2016 8:51 AM  
**To:** JudTestimony  
**Subject:** Raised Bills

[JUDtestimony@cga.ct.gov](mailto:JUDtestimony@cga.ct.gov)

14 March 2016

Dear Judiciary Committee members;

I'm a resident of Connecticut and wish to voice my opposition to the following raised bills;

H.B. 5054 'AN ACT PROTECTING VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE'

H.B. 5623 'AN ACT CONCERNING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND VICTIMS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING'

H.B. 5622 'AN ACT CONCERNING THE AVAILABILITY OF ERASED RECORDS IN DETERMINING WHETHER A PERSON IS A SUITABLE PERSON TO CARRY A PISTOL OR REVOLVER'

S.B. 429 'AN ACT CONCERNING SERVICE OF RESTRAINING ORDERS'

I ask that all members of the committee not support these bills. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,  
Matthew W McBrien  
183 Concord Court  
Beacon Falls CT, 06403  
[203-500-7957](tel:203-500-7957)



Trinity College  
HARTFORD CONNECTICUT

March 14, 2016

To The Judiciary Committee:

I would like to testify in favor of HB 5054 and SB 429. I am a professor of psychology at Trinity College and for many years facilitated a support group for women who had survived domestic violence. I am currently working with the Brain Injury Alliance of CT on better screening for individuals who have survived domestic violence.

Unfortunately, when a firearm is involved the survival rate plummets. If an abuser has access to a firearm, the victim is five times more likely to be killed. Firearms are simply more lethal. In Connecticut we see an average of 14 intimate partner homicides every year, most frequently with a firearm, at about 39%.

The best chance for someone living with abuse is to leave the abuser. However, it is at the moment that she makes the move to leave that violence is most likely to escalate. As the abuser fears losing control, the need to wield power becomes greater. This is the moment when the victim is at most risk. Often, that moment is when she (as it is most often a woman) requests a restraining order. Thus, if a judge deems it appropriate to grant a temporary restraining order, it is essential that the subject of the restraining order surrender any firearms. These can then be returned if the full restraining order is not granted. This is a matter of public health and safety and may be the only chance for a victim of abuse to leave safely.

In the same vein, I oppose HB 5597 because, although well-intentioned, the language of the bill may put victims at greater risk by increasing the likelihood of violent retaliation by the abuser.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sarah A. Raskin".

Sarah A. Raskin, PhD, ABPP/ABCN