



State of Connecticut

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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Legislative Program Review and Investigations Committee
Public Testimony
February 29, 2016

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 148
AN ACT CONCERNING THE WEAPONIZATION OF DRONES BASED ON A PROGRAM REVIEW
AND INVESTIGATIONS COMMITTEE STUDY

Good Morning Co-Chairs Senator Fonfara, Representative Carpino; Ranking Members Senator Kissel, Representative Mushinsky; and esteemed members of the Committee. My name is Gayle Mulligan and I am proud to represent the 55th District, which encompasses Andover, Bolton, Hebron and Marlborough. I am testifying in support of the proposed bill SB-148.

In today's society technology continues to develop at an ever increasing pace with new and exciting devices emerging almost every day. One is remotely controlled drones. These devices are allowing for the average person to have a form of freedom which was unimaginable only a few short years ago. But much like fire, there is always the risk of being burnt. As a Republican I am not a proponent of excessive regulations but I certainly understand the necessary evil of these conventions in certain conditions. I do believe the unregulated use of drones does qualify as such a circumstance.

It is concerning that drones, especially ones purchased by the general public, can easily be retrofitted to carry weapons. I point to the well documented case of a young man in Clinton who mounted a fully loaded gun onto a drone and fired live rounds from it last year. As a mother and state representative, I cannot emphasize enough the concern I felt for the safety of Connecticut's citizens when I saw this footage.

Senate Bill 148 takes further action on this topic regarding the weaponization of drones and I am in full support of the legislation. I had proposed a similar concept on this topic which was not taken up but I am hearten by the fact that my fellow legislators are working on this in order to forestall any potential tragedy.

Kind Regards

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gayle Mulligan".

Gayle Mulligan
State Representative, 55th District