



State of Connecticut

African-American Affairs Commission

State Capitol

210 Capitol Avenue – Room 509

Hartford, CT 06106

860-240-8555

Senator Larson, Representative Dargan and other distinguished members of the public safety committee. My name is Subira Gordon and I am the legislative analyst for the African American Affairs Commission. The mission of the African-American Affairs Commission (AAAC) is to improve and promote the economic development, education, health and political well-being of the African-American community in the State of Connecticut.

I am writing to provide comment on RB 5408 AAC THE PRESENTATION OF A CARRY PERMIT. First let me say that the AAAC is not supporting expanding gun laws and believes that no one should have an illegal weapon.

This raised bill however does provide some concerns. It is a well-known fact African Americans are disproportionately represented in the criminal justice system. There have been too many incidents where an un armed African American has died at the hands of law enforcement for the AAAC to be comfortable to expand the abilities of law enforcement to come into contact with individuals based on a perception and not an actual action.

The part of this bill that is problematic for the AAAC is the removal of “that is observed by such law enforcement officer”. We believe that if a person has a weapon that is visible, law enforcement should have the ability to ask for a permit however in a world where a person can be asked for their license and then be shot by the police when they do go to present that license we are cautious about the removal of that section.

The AAAC does understand the intention of this bill and would be happy to work with the committee to come to a compromise that protects African Americans in the state without expanding the ability for law enforcement to continue to disproportionately come into contact with people of color based on a perception.

Thank you for your time

Subira Gordon
Legislative Analyst
African American Affairs Commission