Hobart, Jamie

From: Eric Milgram <eric.milgram@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 29, 2016 11:50 AM
To: pstestimony
Subject: Please Support HB 5408, Presentation of Carry Permits

To members of the Public Safety and Security Committee of the CT Legislature:

I wanted to voice my support for HB 5408, which requires persons who carry handguns in public to have their permits on their person at all times and to show those permits when requested by police.

Carrying a firearm in public carries entails enormous risks to the general public, and it is a right that must be accompanied with commensurate responsibility. Furthermore, an automobile's express purpose is the conveyance of people and their belongings, while a firearm's express design purpose is to kill or injure.

The state of CT requires that drivers of automobiles be licensed. We also require that automobiles be registered annually. For public health reasons, we require that automobiles be tested for emissions biannually. We also require that operators of automobiles carry proof of registration, that said automobiles visibly display identification and proof of registration. We also require that automobile operators carry minimal liability insurance. Other than the licensing requirements, gun owners in CT have no additional requirements to own, operate, or carry their firearms in public.

Asking owners of firearms who wish to carry those weapons in public for proof that they are licensed to do so is not unreasonably intrusive. As we saw in a recent Colorado mass shooting, lives could have been saved if Colorado had such a requirement. Despite calls from concerned citizens, only after an open carrying gunman started shooting people in public were authorities able to intervene.

The approval of this bill is critical in honoring the public's right to shop, live, and go about their business in a climate of relative safety and security.

Sincerely,

Eric Milgram, Ph.D.
Sandy Hook, CT