

March 3, 2016

Public Safety & Security Public Hearing On H.B. 5408

Dear members of the Public Safety & Security Committee,

My name is Michael Picard, I am a Connecticut resident and a gun owner. I am in opposition of house bill 5408. Let me tell you about my experience: Last year, I was illegally frisked, searched, seized for 40 minutes, my property was confiscated, and I was threatened with arrest twice, for nothing more than peacefully exercising my constitutional rights – holding up a sign on public property and legally, and openly, carrying a holstered pistol – for what we now know was based on no reasonable suspicion. I was then conspired against and evidence was fabricated, all recorded on video, in order to falsely charge me with a crime, even though they admitted on that same video that I had done nothing wrong.

The right to be secure in our persons, houses, papers, and effects from unreasonable searches and seizures does not cease to exist at the mere sight of a pistol or because the police kind of, sort of think you might have one.

If this becomes the standard, then why not stop a car merely to verify that the driver has a license? Why not require that someone who is peacefully holding up a sign produce their ID?

You have before you a bill that, if passed, will give the police the unbridled power to seize people on a whim, on a hunch. If you pass this heinous bill, then you must also accept that you will be complicit in the abuse and corruption that will result. You will be complicit in harassing law abiding citizens. If you vote in favor of this heinous bill, you will be derelict in your responsibility to the people of Connecticut and the Constitution.

Don't turn law abiding citizens into criminals; don't make law abiding citizens have to choose between exercising their constitutional rights and becoming a criminal.

I implore this committee, and every legislator, to fulfill the oath you have taken and to side with freedom this time. Vote in opposition of House Bill 5408.

The above referenced video can be found at youtu.be/Aizm05nCVkE (shortened version, 7 minutes) and youtu.be/kxSHMbZcdcE (full version, 31 minutes).

Sincerely,
Michael Picard
East Hartford, CT