

3-1-16

Dear Public Safety and Security Committee:

The Newtown Action Alliance implore you and the Connecticut General Assembly to support [HB 5408](#), "to require the holder of a permit for the carrying of any pistol or revolver to present such permit upon request of a law enforcement officer". HB 5408 will clearly eliminate conflicting interpretations of the current law.

We believe openly carrying firearms in public places is a public safety issue and in Newtown, it raises significant concern since our community is still in the process of recovering from the Sandy Hook tragedy. Law enforcement officers should be able to ask gun owners who are openly carrying a potentially lethal weapon to produce their pistol permit.

Over 100,000 Americans have died from guns since the Sandy Hook shooting. In an era of mass shootings in all public places, there is no way of differentiating a "good guy with a gun" from a "bad guy with a gun". Law enforcement officer's ability to check pistol permits is a sensible policy that will protect our families and communities.

We urge the Connecticut legislators to reject the dangerous gun lobby rhetoric and its pursuit of guns everywhere agenda. The gun lobby is purely motivated by gun industry profits despite the massive bloodshed in our nation. The top four gun manufacturers have raked in over \$632 million since the Sandy Hook tragedy and its lobbyists are working to put guns on college campuses in 15 states and aggressively pursuing permit-less carry in 16 states this year.

It's time for common sense laws such as HB 5408 to prevail to reverse the epidemic of gun violence in our nation.

In addition, we also support SB 20 which will reduce the definition of carrying a firearm when intoxicated by reducing the prohibited ratio of alcohol in the blood to eight-hundredths of one per cent or more of alcohol. The current standard defines the prohibited blood level ratio at ten-hundredths of 1%. Eight-hundredths of 1% would be consistent with the driving while intoxicated standard. However, we oppose HB 5409 that would take away the right of police chiefs to ask for additional documents, in addition to the basic application, to determine the suitability of a person seeking a permit to carry handguns in public.

Thank you for your consideration.

Best Regards,

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Chairman, Newtown Action Alliance & The Newtown Foundation

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