

Hobart, Jamie

From: Rob Curley <rcurleyemsi@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 02, 2016 2:45 AM
To: pstestimony
Subject: HB5408

Good Day,

I am writing you in regards to HB5408. This bill infringes on the rights of those who choose to exercise their Second Amendment right to keep and bear arms, while doing nothing to deter criminals.

The House co-chair of the Public Safety and Security Committee, Rep. Stephen Dargan, D-West Haven, said he wanted to modify Connecticut's open-carry law after police officers in his district and in Bridgeport encountered resistance from individuals who were asked by officers for their permits.

Under current law, those carrying weapons in public must also carry their gun permits, and law enforcement officials may ask to see those permits if there is "reasonable suspicion" of criminal conduct. Reasonable suspicion of a criminal act does not equate to open carry. In fact why would a person up to criminal activity or carrying a firearm illegally carry it in plain view and draw attention to themselves?

The individuals who did not show the police officers their permits argued there was no reason to suspect them of criminal activity.

To avoid that type of impasse, the phrase "reasonable suspicion of a crime" would be eliminated under the new bill, HB 5408. By doing this you are violating due process and creating a situation of illegal search and seizure.

Darden was quoted as saying in the Ct Mirror saying:

"We're just trying to get clarification on that language. Nobody is against open carry, but when a police officer asks you for a driver's license, you are required to show a license...so what's the big deal here?"

The "big deal" is the last time I checked the police don't speed by you and yell out the window of their cruiser asking for your license. They pull you over and stop you for a REASON. It's called probable cause.

Stopping a person minding their own business and open carrying to ask for their permit is like stopping RANDOM motorists for no reason but to see if they possess a drivers license.

Would you allow an officer to barge into your house without a warrant? Of course not.

This legislation would also allow police officers to ask for permits of those they suspect of carrying a weapon. That infringes on the right to carry a concealed weapon in the state.

This is just another attempt by anti-gun lawmakers in Connecticut to harass and intimidate law-abiding gun owners in the state. They are trying to create a situation where there is none and making pariahs out of anybody following open-carry laws.

Thank You,

Robert F. Curley AEMT, EMSI

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