

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

I wish to register my disapproval with the proposed changes to the law requiring presentation of a Connecticut Permit to carry Pistols and Revolvers.

As I'm sure you are aware, Law Enforcement officers in this country are not allowed to just stop and demand identification from individuals absent some reasonable and articulable suspicion that a crime has just taken place, is currently taking place or is about to take place.

Police officers can't summarily pull people over simply to check to see if they have a license or not, there has to be some cause for them to initiate the stop in the first place.

There is established case law with regards to these kinds of stops in Terry V. Ohio which states that the police must have a reasonable suspicion that the person is involved in criminal activity.

The simple carrying of a pistol is not in and of itself evidence of a crime since it is perfectly legal to do so if one has a permit. The onus is not on the citizen to prove they are in the right, the burden always falls on law enforcement to make the case that they are not before subjecting them to a search or seizure of their person or property.

This is not a second amendment problem it is a fourth amendment violation.

Since it is also true that if the officer has reasonable suspicion he can demand the permit and detain the person. No law abiding gun owner is going to resist a demand from law enforcement - they will comply under duress and will likely follow up with a formal complaint. This way if the police officer actually believes there is crime afoot they can demand the permit, but they can also be held accountable for their actions if they are in the wrong.

This bill will degrade the rights of free people to the point where any police officer can stop anyone and demand their identification. This is a slippery slope and not one that "The Constitution State" should embark down willingly.

I strongly urge you to resist the urge to whittle away at the 4th amendment rights and encourage the police to live within the bounds of the laws that exist.

Respectfully

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