



**Public Safety Committee  
Public Hearing  
March 3, 2016**

**TESTIMONY OF SECRETARY OF THE STATE DENISE W.  
MERRILL REGARDING:**

- **Raised Bill 5408, AN ACT CONCERNING THE PRESENTATION OF A CARRY PERMIT**

Good morning Chairman Larson, Chairman Dargan, Ranking Members Guglielmo and Zupkus and members of the committee. My name is Denise Merrill and I am the Secretary of the State of Connecticut. I would like to address one bill before the committee this morning.

- **Raised Bill 5408, AN ACT CONCERNING THE PRESENTATION OF A CARRY PERMIT**

In our state and in our country, we have a crisis that demands action from every citizen to take measures to prevent gun violence. That is why I support this bill.

Let's be clear. This is a very modest step. However, it does address one potential issue, namely that if someone is insistent upon carrying a gun in public our law enforcement can verify that it is being done lawfully. This could protect the public from someone who is out to commit harm and it is worth enacting.

Connecticut survived one of the worst gun violence atrocities in our country's history. Our law enforcement authorities need to be empowered to affirm that people who possess guns are doing so within the bounds of the law.

This will protect the health and welfare of our entire state.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.