

Dear Members of the Joint Committee on Public Safety and Security,

I am writing to ask you to **SUPPORT** the passage of HB 5408, An Act Concerning the Presentation of a Carry Permit.

As a mother, wife, and hardworking resident of CT, I implore you to consider passing HB 5408. Public safety is of utmost importance to me and my family. Passing HB 5408 is a simple step in the right direction to reasonably promote and support community safety in our state.

I take my children out of businesses and places where I see someone open carry their gun because there is no way of knowing whether or not that person is doing so legally. I feel a police officer has the right to know whether or not someone who is carrying their gun openly has a permit. Police cannot adequately protect public safety if they have to wait for "reasonable suspicion" before asking to see a valid carry permit. By that time it may be too late. My children's safety should not have to be put at risk for the sake of a person who carries a gun in public and is allowed to refuse to show their permit – if the person holding the gun even has one, that is.

**HB 5408 keeps the public's Second Amendment rights intact, allowing the gun owner to open carry while giving the public a chance to make sure that the holder is legally doing so.** As the bill's Statement of Purpose explains, I believe it is common sense "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." This is a simple and effective way to keep the public safe and not put officers in a tense situation, which could become dangerous.

As the late Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia wrote in DC v. Heller, "**the Second Amendment right is not unlimited. For example, concealed weapons prohibitions have been upheld under the Amendment or state analogues.**"

Frankly, what's the point of having an open carry permit at all if the gun owner is legally allowed to refuse to show it? This is a contradiction. If the law says we have to have a permit to open carry a gun in public, we should also have to present it when asked. As a citizen, **I have just as much a right to feel safe in public as a person who chooses to open carry.** HB 5408 enables police officers to do their job making sure that ALL citizens can enjoy our days and nights in public safely and without fear.

Please uphold Connecticut's strong protections against gun violence by voting "yes" to bring HB 5408 to the full General Assembly for an up or down vote. Thank you.

Shira Tarantino  
Stamford, CT  
March 3, 2016