



CCDL, Inc.
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Connecticut Citizens Defense League, Inc.

Honorable members of the 'Public Safety and Security Committee', my name is Scott Wilson. I am the president and also a co-founder of the Connecticut Citizens Defense League, and also a resident of New London. Thank you for taking the time to host this public hearing so that we as citizens of our state have the opportunity to take an active role and the ability to participate in the legislative process today.

I am here to testify in opposition to one bill, and to support another:

I Oppose: H.B. No. 5408 AN ACT CONCERNING THE PRESENTATION OF A CARRY PERMIT.

By now (after court precedents), DPS memos pertaining to a rally that CCDL hosted in 2010, and also recent memo issued by the Chief State's Attorney. It is well established that the manner in which a firearm can be carried with a CT state permit is either "open carried" or "concealed". We are not here to address that particular issue, but since it is legal and does not rise to any violation of any state statute,

Rather than eliminate the "Reasonable Suspicion" language from the existing statute (15-216), which may open the door to harassment of law abiding citizens, consider alternate measures to deal with persons acting in a lawful manner.

I submit a loose proposal as an alternate solution at this time that law enforcement and those involved within the chain of communication (police dispatchers; etc.) can put into a training protocol to deal with the actuality of persons who are, or may be carrying a firearm:

Dispatchers that receive phone calls from the public reporting the sighting of guns in can ask simple questions of someone reporting a call to emergency responders:

- 1) Does the person that has the gun appear to be threatening anybody?
- 2) Does the person carrying the firearm appear agitated or visibly angry?
- 3) Is the person brandishing the firearm, or do they otherwise appear to be acting civilly?

**Every citizen has a right
to bear arms in defense
of himself and the state.**
Connecticut State Constitution, Article First, Section 15



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Officers who encounter persons in public that are carrying firearms either openly, or accidentally exposed can use the guidelines of anyone who is in public obeying the law unless they in fact meet some element of reasonable suspicion. Obviously if there is in fact reasonable suspicion, officers can and should act accordingly.

If law enforcement were to pull automobiles over just to check if the drivers were licensed, or if people were stopped walking down the road because a member of law enforcement were profiling a person, or perhaps did not look like they belonged in the country, there would probably be an outcry over such a proposal. This is the same thing!

The nature of this bill is there is an assumption an individual may be breaking a law because of the mere presence of a firearm. Rather than modify the existing statutes, police chiefs should be responsible to train their patrols in exactly the same fashion of any unfair profiling practice.

I Support: H.B. No. 5409 AN ACT CONCERNING APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR A TEMPORARY STATE PERMIT TO CARRY A PISTOL OR A REVOLVER.

This bill has been around before, and it passed the house unanimously in 2012 under Bill HB5245. This bill would only make the standard the same for applicants from one town to another. The permit process is already outlined in the state statutes **(29-28a, 29-28b and 29-29)** for necessary documentation. As an added measure, I and our former vice president in 2010 filed a petition for a Declaratory ruling from the Board of Firearms Permit Examiners. The Board sided with the fact that no additional criteria are necessary other than what is outlined in the statutes. Individuals who do not provide additional information, routinely win on appeal if they are denied based on their not providing additional information.

Essentially what this boils down to is certain local issuing authorities do not want to issue pistol permits to Connecticut residents, and they impose obstacles along the way. That said, Police are allowed to conduct a suitability investigation of applicants, and have many tools at their disposal, and do not have the need to compel an individual to act as an agent in their own investigation beyond that which is already outlined. A waiver for credit checks and medical records are not appropriate for the investigatory process, nor is compelling an individual to submit "letters of character reference" and the like.

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As the leader of this organization, I have heard many from people who are routinely delayed and or denied a Temporary Permit 'even if' they go along with the requests for additional information, and more often if they don't. Nowhere is it mentioned along the way by the issuing authorities that submitting additional information upon request is voluntary for the applicant. This should be the case, considering it is not grounds for denial by the State of Connecticut.

As it stands now, the 8 weeks to either issue or deny a permit are routinely violated by issuing authorities because there is no "teeth" in the statutes that look out for an applicant who merely wishes to exercise their rights.

Thank you for your careful consideration of my testimony.

Scott Wilson

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