

Hobart, Jamie

From: Gail Lehmann <gaillehmann@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 01, 2016 6:10 PM
To: Po Murray
Cc: pstestimony
Subject: Re: Please SUPPORT HB 5408 & SB 20 and OPPOSE HB 5409

Ditto

Sent from Gail Lehmann's iPad
203-438-7755

On Mar 1, 2016, at 1:04 PM, Po Murray <pmurray@newtownaction.org> wrote:

Dear Public Safety and Security Committee:

The Newtown Action Alliance implore you and the Connecticut General Assembly to support HB 5408, "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". HB 5408 will clearly eliminate conflicting interpretations of the current law.

We believe openly carrying firearms in public places is a public safety issue and in Newtown, it raises significant concern since our community is still in the process of recovering from the Sandy Hook tragedy. Law enforcement officers should be able to ask gun owners who are openly carrying a potentially lethal weapon to produce their pistol permit.

Over 100,000 Americans have died from guns since the Sandy Hook shooting. In an era of mass shootings in all public places, there is no way of differentiating a "good guy with a gun" from a "bad guy with a gun". Law enforcement officer's ability to check pistol permits is a sensible policy that will protect our families and communities.

We urge the Connecticut legislators to reject the dangerous gun lobby rhetoric and its pursuit of guns everywhere agenda. The gun lobby is purely motivated by gun industry profits despite the massive bloodshed in our nation. The top four gun manufacturers have raked in over \$632 million since the Sandy Hook tragedy and its lobbyists are working to put guns on college campuses in 15 states and aggressively pursuing permit-less carry in 16 states this year.

It's time for common sense laws such as HB 5408 to prevail to reverse the epidemic of gun violence in our nation.