

**PUBLIC HEARING TESTIMONY
PUBLIC SAFETY AND SECURITY COMMITTEE
MARCH 3, 2016**

**SB 20, AAC CARRYING A FIREARM WHILE INTOXICATED OR UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF ALCOHOL
HB 5408, AAC THE PRESENTATION OF A CARRY PERMIT**

Good Morning Sen. Larson, Rep. Dargan and members of the Public Safety and Security Committee,

I support HB 5408, AAC the Presentation of a Carry Permit. This is legislation that is simple common sense. A police officer ought to be able to see the carry permit of an armed person, but apparently current law is unclear about that. As you may know, an armed man recorded and posted his belligerence in refusing requests from the police to show his permit in a Bridgeport sandwich shop. Apparently there was also recently a similar videotaped encounter at a big box store in Hartford.

Police officers are the public's protectors, and these clips demonstrate how difficult their job is. Do we really expect police officers to be powerless in checking out armed civilians walking into stores and restaurants? The need for police to be able to check the carry permit of an armed person is so obvious, it is amazing that the issue even needs to be discussed. It puts the police at needless risk, and ties their hands in protecting the public. These incidents are also unfair to the businesses involved, since they can't really know if the person is exercising his or her "rights" in a brazen way or plans to rob the store; and these encounters undoubtedly disrupt the flow of business and frighten away customers. They must also be terrifying to the thousands of Connecticut residents who have been first hand witnesses to incidents of gun violence.

Like the First Amendment, the Second Amendment does not give unlimited rights. In the Heller case, the late Justice Antonin said this in acknowledging its limits: "It is not a right to keep and carry any weapon whatsoever in any manner whatsoever and for whatever purpose."

I also support SB 20, AAC Carrying a Permit While Intoxicated or Under the Influence of Alcohol. Again, this is simple common sense. It brings the threshold for intoxication in line with that of driving while intoxicated. I am unaware of any rational person who supports carrying a gun, or hunting while intoxicated. The reasons why doing so is a bad idea are simply too obvious to belabor.

Very truly yours,

Mark Franklin
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