March 10, 2019

Joint Committee on Judiciary
Legislative Office Building, Room 2500
Hartford, CT 06106

To whom it may concern:

I am writing about several gun law proposals before the committee. I am a veteran with two post 9-11 deployments, and I take our rights very seriously. I'm not opposed to laws that make it more difficult for firearms to be used criminally, but the intent of so many recent gun laws proposed in this state appear to punish law-abiding gun owners, or make their lives more difficult, rather than truly reduce violent crime. I read in the Stamford Advocate of a criminal shot a man and disables him for life, gets a more three years, and then is arrested again while on parole for carrying an illegal firearm¹. All these new laws, all the increased bureaucratic hoops, do not make individuals like this stop carrying illegal weapons. More paperwork doesn't make a safer state and it doesn't reduce violent crime. Further, I am against making it a felony for people who violate a gun law absent some other *mala in se* crime, especially for the first offense.

My comments on several proposed bills are as follows:

SB No. 60 – This law is redundant. Law enforcement, when having reasonable and articulate suspicion that someone has committed a crime and may be armed, can conduct a self-protective search for weapons. The person detained has every opportunity to declare that he or she is carrying and present the carry permit. Random searches for weapons are per se unreasonable under the 4th Amendment and this law incentivizes random searches.

HB No. 7218 – This is a bad law trying to legislate common sense. Especially egregious is that it appears to not even exempt the gun owner if the minor is his or her household takes hold of a firearm from a locked safe or container. It a gun owner locks up his or her weapons, he or she shouldn't held strictly liable for the actions of his or her household.

HB No. 7223 – This bill also attempts to legislate common sense and makes it a felony for even a brief trip into a convenience store for a cup of coffee while leaving a pistol or revolver in locked vehicle. A law like will never make an individual like the one referenced in the Stamford Advocate put his illegal pistol in a locked safe in his car.

I do support SB No. 940, HB No 5227, and HB 5870. Thank you for your time and work governing the state of Connecticut.

Yours faithfully,

John J. Marciano
Honorably discharged, LCDR, USNR

¹ https://www.stamfordadvocate.com/policereports/article/Stamford-felon-on-parole-for-less-than-two-12270666.php