

Legislative Testimony, Judiciary Committee, 3.11.2019

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**I strongly oppose the S.B. No. 60, An Act Concerning the Presentation of a Carry Permit.**

All this bill would accomplish is granting an open invitation to violating one's civil rights. This, has already been proven to be the issue in several stops where evidence has even been fabricated by the CT State Police in the past (not counting local jurisdictions). Passing this bill would only further erode civil rights. If there is just cause to inquire about a permit, then this bill simply isn't needed.

**I STRONGLY oppose H.B. No. 7218 – An Act Concerning the Safe Storage of Firearms in the Home.**

Given what I do as a profession in the gun industry as well as permit issues for CCDL, this is simply an unenforceable act that is designed to punish gun owners after the fact rather than prevent ANY crime. In fact, this will only create dangerous situations for many by creating barriers to access of a defensive firearm. This bill would also subject the State of CT to extremely costly litigation in cases where the federal court system as well as SCOTUS regarding similar measures. The State of Connecticut simply cannot win this case in the federal courts.

**I also oppose H.B. No. 7219 – An Act Concerning Ghost Guns.**

This is another one of those "made up" terms that means nothing. For centuries, citizens have enjoyed the right to build, design, or improve current design of firearms. It is the very root of innovation that has served this state's history well, let alone an American heritage. I have made many of these types of firearms as well as dozens of my friends and yet, none of them have ever ended up on the street.

This is "feel good" legislation that does nothing to curb crime. If a non-industry manufactured firearm or improvised firearm is found at a crime scene – then it was already used in a CRIME!!! Why do we need a system designed to deter hobbyists and home engineers alike? This bill is further useless in the fact that all it does is punish those that don't break the law. If I was a criminal, as we've seen from recent Office of Legislative Research reports, gun charges would be dropped. So, who is this law aimed at?

**I oppose H.B. No. 7223 – An Act Concerning the Storage of a Pistol or Revolver in a Motor Vehicle.**

The very reason vehicles get broken into is because citizens are forced to secure a firearm whenever they enter criminal empowerment zones (what you would define as a "gun free" zone). If there is a huge issue with firearms theft in motor vehicles, we should be removing laws that cause gun owners to store them there in the first place.

**I Support S.B. No. 940 – An Act Authorizing Certain Persons to Carry Handguns in State Parks and State Forests.**

This law only makes common sense. At least 80 percent of the country allows the carry of firearms in state parks and forests and we don't see any correlation between crime and lawfully permitted citizens carrying in these parks. It is even more brutally frustrating when gun owners already pay more money in taxes than non-gun owners to access these parks through the Pittman-Robertson Act. The Pittman-Robertson Act is The **Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act**, which was approved by Congress in 1937. The act provides funding for the selection, restoration, and improvement of wildlife habitat, and for wildlife management research. This funding is derived from an additional tax paid by sportsmen when they purchase guns, ammo, etc.

**I support H.B. No. 5227 – An Act Concerning the Regulation of Firearms by Municipalities.**

My opposition to this bill can be summed up simply by the obvious that no municipality should exercise any control over a federally and state guaranteed constitutional right. We have several towns trying an attempt at this and we need to prevent clogging up the courts with frivolous lawsuits. My rights don't end in a patchwork of codified laws depending on what town I'm driving through. Towns don't have the ability to supersede state law anywhere else, this isn't a good place to start.

**I STRONGLY support H.B. No. 5870 – An Act Concerning Transfer of Assault Weapons and Large Capacity Magazines.**

This bill should be universally supported by both pro and anti-gun ideologues. If you heard how many phone calls, messages and emails I receive from citizens that don't know what to do with these firearms after a person has passed away. Forcing someone to go through probate is simply inefficient and doesn't always happen when someone dies. Because there is no mechanism to do this while someone is alive (like a gun trust), these firearms are often "lost" due to poor current legislation. It isn't a loophole, as many may suggest. It allows a method of transferring firearms and even enacting gun trusts while a person is alive and allowing those that are already legal to possess firearms take on that responsibility.