Co-chairs Winfield and Stafstrom, Ranking Members Kissel and Fishbein and distinguished members of the Judiciary Committee:

My name is Albert Saubermann, I live in Deep River and I'm a retired physician. I am writing on my own behalf.

I am testifying in **support of House Bill-6355, An Act Concerning Risk Protection Orders of Warrants, to Strengthen Connecticut's Extreme Risk Protection Order (ERPO)**.

The purpose of this bill is to amend existing law to make it easier to remove firearms from individuals at risk of imminent harm to themselves or others by allowing family, household members and healthcare professionals to directly petition the Court for a risk protection order (ERPO). Currently only law enforcement officials and states' attorneys can do so. This bill also makes it harder for firearms to be returned to the individual by requiring a court hearing to determine if the risk of imminent harm no longer exists instead of simply waiting until the warrant lapses at which point firearms are returned with no questions asked.

Currently it is relatively difficult to get a warrant (ERPO) and relatively easy to get firearms returned; in essence current law values 2nd Amendment rights over the State's duty to protect the life and safety of our citizens. Temporary suspension of 2nd Amendment rights can be fully remedied, but loss of life or limb is irretrievable. It is time to recognize this imbalance and to amend our laws. It is time to rebalance these conflicting duties and rights so that they more successfully favor public safety and our States's duty to preserve life and limb. This balance is an ethical imperative. This balance is achievable.

To be more effective in preventing needless injury and death, our laws need to be amended as stated by HB-6355 expanding who can directly seek an ERPO from the Court. In addition we need our laws to create a deliberative process to carefully consider the state of that individual before returning a firearm. Those close to someone in danger of harming themselves, or others, and knowledgeable healthcare providers are well suited to be empowered to act to petition the court tor intervention. They are able to understand intentions and mindset and act compassionately in that individual's best interest to prevent harm. Having this expanded empowerment enhances police and the Courts' ability to serve the public and protect lives. Using a court hearing to return firearms to someone introduces impartial judgement that can balance individual rights against the state's interest in preserving life and public safety concerns.

As a retired physician, and as an anesthesiologist who practiced in several major trauma centers throughout my career, I have cared for many victims of gun violence. Obviously my experience with suicide attempts and serious gunshot wounds are individuals who lived long enough to reach the operating room, or survived long enough to reach an ICU where I've also

practiced. Self inflicted damage can be devastating for the family and the patient, leaving life lasting disfigurement, psychological damage and never ending regrets. HB-6355 is important to make it easier to effectively intervene in a timely fashion while balancing an individual's rights to bear arms and the State's duties to protection of life and limb.

I strongly urge the Committee to vote favorably for HB-6355 and pass this bill on to let our General Assembly consider it for full enactment.

Sincerely,

Albert J. Saubermann, MD

Deep River, CT