

**Godbout v. Connecticut's Legislature, Bipartisan Task Force
on Gun Violence Prevention and Children's Safety**
FIC CASE # Not Assigned

31 JAN 13 filing by David Godbout

COMPLAINANT'S COMPLAINT/NOTICE OF APPEAL

&

COMPLAINANT'S REQUEST FOR EXPEDITED HEARING(S)

STATEMENT OF FACTS

Our legislature began a Bipartisan Task Force on Gun Violence and Children's Safety (aka BTFGVCS). The legislature described this as a subcommittee of the legislature.

The complainant was denied the chance to participate in presenting oral testimony during the 30 JAN 13 hearing.

The legislature gave only those citizens who were deemed privileged the opportunity to present oral testimony before the committee.

Of citizens allowed to present oral testimony, only residents of a specific town, Newtown, were allowed to provide such testimony.

About 85 residents of Newtown signed up to give oral testimony and over 60 residents of other towns, including the complainant, signed up to give oral testimony.

Only Newtown residents were allowed to give such oral testimony by the committee.

The restriction noted here is in violation of CGS Chapter 14's requirement to allow citizen's right to participate in this class of meetings.

EXPEDITED HEARING PETITION

The BTFGVCS hearings are now being used to support a claim by legislators that hearings were held that the public had access to and could fully participate in gun control legislation being proposed by legislators in this legislative session.

The legislature is preparing to go through with an Emergency Certification process to avoid the public from participating in true open meetings regarding laws that affect citizen's rights to be able to defend themselves from the criminal element and other aggressors that citizens may face.

Some of the proposed bills would severely limit the ability of citizens to survive an attack by an aggressor(s).

Many bills that are in the legislature, if passed, would result in the deaths of many Connecticut citizens.

Our FOIA act demands not only that citizens can watch and view committee meetings but also to have the chance to participate in these meetings and this would include the giving of oral testimony.

Our legislative leaders begun a process in creating the BTFGVCS to create an appearance that the public was able to participate in a committee process and then to use the BTFGVCS process to support an Emergency Certification process; to make it more palatable to assure the public and legislative members that the public did actually have access to the BTFGVCS committee and to use the BTFGVCS meetings as a substitute for regular committee meetings. This was not disclosed to the public before the hearings before the BTFGVCS and bill proposals were still being introduced on the BTFGVCS subject matter after the hearings started.

There is no doubt that bills that have been proposed, if passed by the method that the legislative leaders of this state intended long ago, that people will unnecessarily die because of the bill's requirements.

And there is no doubt that the legislature has violated CGS Chapter 14 requirements regarding meetings.

And that this is a highly time sensitive issue, it must be granted an expedited hearing before the FIC.

The complainant would ask for a hearing date before the full committee on 13 FEB 13 or earlier to address this subject matter that would affect every citizen's basic core constitutional rights.

Exhibits Attached

1) BTFGVCS Notice of public hearing – 30 JAN 13 ; 2 pages

Submitted by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Godbout", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

David Godbout
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Bipartisan Task Force on Gun Violence Prevention and Children's Safety

A Safer Connecticut

Brendan Sharkey, Speaker of the House | Donald E. Williams, Jr., Senate President | John McKinney, Senate Republican Leader
Larry Cafero, House Republican Leader | Martin M. Looney, Senate Majority Leader | Joe Aresimowicz, House Majority Leader



PRESS RELEASES

- January 29, 2013
- January 18, 2013
- January 15, 2013

WORKING GROUPS

- Gun Violence Prevention Working Group
- School Security Working Group
- Mental Health Services Working Group

PUBLIC INFORMATIONAL HEARINGS

- January 25, 2013 9:30 a.m.
[School Safety Working Group](#)
Legislative Office Bldg. Room 2C
[View Testimony](#)
- January 28, 2013 10:00 a.m.
[Gun Violence Prevention Working Group](#)
Legislative Office Bldg. Room 2C
[View Testimony](#)
- January 29, 2013 10:30 a.m.
Public Portion to begin at 2:00 p.m.
[Mental Health Services Working Group](#)
Legislative Office Bldg. Room 2C
[View Testimony](#)
- January 30, 2013 6:00 p.m.
[Full Bipartisan Task Force](#)
Newtown High School, Newtown, CT

JANUARY 29, 2013

BIPARTISAN TASK FORCE ON GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION AND CHILDREN'S SAFETY SCHEDULES HEARINGS

NEWTOWN PUBLIC HEARING

Wednesday January 30, 2013

The Bipartisan Task Force on Gun Violence Prevention and Children's Safety will hold an informational public hearing at Newtown High School from 6:00 p.m. – midnight on Wednesday, January 30.

Sign-up for the informational public hearing will begin at 4:30 p.m. **Due to ongoing school activities, no public hearing participants will have access to parking or the building until 4:30 p.m.** Anyone arriving for the public hearing at Newtown High School prior to that time will be turned away by local security.

The address is:

Newtown High School
12 Berkshire Road
Newtown, CT 06482

The 6:00 p.m. - 11 p.m. portion of the hearing is reserved for testimony from local officials, local first responders and families of the Sandy Hook Elementary School system. Speaking order for the general public will then be determined by a lottery system. If local officials, first responders and Sandy Hook Elementary school families have not completed their remarks by 11:00 p.m., their time will be extended to midnight. If they have completed their testimony before midnight, the hearing will be opened to the general public.

Lottery numbers will be drawn from 4:30 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. Speakers arriving after the completion of the lottery will have their names placed at the end of the speaker list. The list of speakers registered by the lottery system will be posted outside of the hearing room at 6:00 p.m.

The auditorium is limited to a capacity of 850 people. Once capacity is reached, the main entrance will be closed.

All speakers will be limited to three minutes of testimony. All public hearing testimony, written and

Email Public Hearing Testimony to:

asaferconnecticut@cga.ct.gov

Please indicate in the subject of your email to which working group(s) you would like your testimony directed (gun violence prevention, school security, and/or mental health services).

Please be aware that any submitted testimony may be made public.

spoken, is public information. As such, it may be made available on the task force website and indexed by internet search engines. The task force requests that all testimony for this hearing be submitted electronically to asaferconnecticut@cga.ct.gov.

WORKING GROUPS:**Gun Violence:**

Sen. Martin Looney, Co-chair
Rep. Craig Miner, Co-chair
Sen. Eric Coleman
Sen. John Fonfara
Sen. Scott Prantz
Sen. Tony Guglielmo
Sen. Joan Hartley
Sen. John Kissel
Sen. Kevin Witkos
Rep. Dan Carter
Rep. Stephen Dargan
Rep. Gerald Fox III
Rep. Janice Giegler
Rep. Bob Godfrey
Rep. Rosa Rebimbas
Rep. Toni Walker

School Security:

Sen. Toni Boucher, Co-chair
Rep. Andrew Fleischmann, Co-chair
Sen. Danté Bartolomeo
Sen. Beth Bye
Sen. Art Linares
Sen. Andrew Maynard
Sen. Mike McLachlan
Sen. Andrea Stillman
Sen. Kevin Witkos
Rep. Tim Ackert
Rep. Whit Betts
Rep. Mitch Bolinsky
Rep. Tim LeGeyt
Rep. Diana Urban
Rep. Patricia Widlitz
Rep. Roberta Willis

Mental Health:

Sen. Toni Harp, Co-chair
Rep. Terrie Wood, Co-chair
Sen. Joe Crisco
Sen. Terry Gerratana
Sen. Rob Kane
Sen. Kevin Kelly
Sen. Joe Markley
Sen. Gayle Slossberg
Sen. Jason Welch
Rep. Cathy Abercrombie
Rep. DebraLee Hovey
Rep. Susan Johnson
Rep. Robert Megna
Rep. Betsy Ritter
Rep. Rob Sampson
Rep. Prasad Srinivasan

View CT-N video coverage of meetings [here](#).



"A Safer Connecticut"

House Democrats: 860.240.8500 | House Republicans: 860.240.8700 | Senate Democrats: 860.240.8600 | Senate Republicans: 860.240.8800

School Security Working Group: Chris Calabrese - 860.240.0420
Gun Violence Prevention Working Group: Kirstin Breiner - 860.240.0570
Mental Health Services Working Group: Virginia Monteiro - 860.240-0560