

Hello Ms. Flexer-

Regarding proposed House Bill HB5112 "An Act Concerning the Disclosure of the Names and Addresses of Persons Holding Handgun Permits", I am writing to express my discontent with the aforementioned Bill.

As you know, said Bill proposes to eliminate the confidentiality requirement for Permit and Eligibility Certificate holders and allow disclosure of names and addresses under the FOIA. The Sections proposed for revision are as follows:

CGS Sec. 29-28(d) Notwithstanding the provisions of sections 1-210 and 1-211, the name and address of a person issued a permit to sell at retail pistols and revolvers pursuant to subsection (a) of this section or a state or a temporary state permit to carry a pistol or revolver pursuant to subsection (b) of this section, or a local permit to carry pistols and revolvers issued by local authorities prior to October 1, 2001, shall be confidential and shall not be disclosed, except (1) such information may be disclosed to law enforcement officials acting in the performance of their duties, (2) the issuing authority may disclose such information to the extent necessary to comply with a request made pursuant to section 29-33 for verification that such state or temporary state permit is still valid and has not been suspended or revoked, and the local authority may disclose such information to the extent necessary to comply with a request made pursuant to section 29-33 for verification that a local permit is still valid and has not been suspended or revoked, and (3) such information may be disclosed to the Commissioner of Mental Health and Addiction Services to carry out the provisions of subsection (c) of section 17a-500.

CGS Sec. 29-36g(e) Notwithstanding the provisions of sections 1-210 and 1-211, the name and address of a person issued an eligibility certificate for a pistol or revolver under the provisions of section 29-36f shall be confidential and shall not be disclosed, except (1) such information may be disclosed to law enforcement officials acting in the performance of their duties, (2) the Commissioner of Public Safety may disclose such information to the extent necessary to comply with a request made pursuant to section 29-33 for verification that such certificate is still valid and has not been suspended or revoked, and (3) such information may be disclosed to the Commissioner of Mental Health and Addiction Services to carry out the provisions of subsection (c) of section 17a-500.

In this age of information, it is possible for any individual to find my name, address, phone number, family members, etc, with a simple internet search. To add my status as a Permit holder to the list of readily available personal information would serve no conceivable benefit to the public interest. To the contrary, such information would provide any interested individual with a reasonable expectation that I possess firearms either on my person or in my home, and a street address as to where to find me and/or my firearms.

It is particularly disconcerting to consider that individuals who cannot purchase firearms legally for themselves (due to restrictions, ineligibility, criminal history, mental health, etc.) would have access to a virtual "shopping list" of individuals and residences where they are likely to find and possibly obtain firearms unlawfully.

I believe that in formulating the existing statutory language, the General Assembly (at that time) included reasonable exceptions to the confidentiality requirement in order to adequately promote public health, safety and welfare (see subsections (1), (2) and (3) of both above-cited sections), and as such said language should not be altered as proposed by HB5112.

I respectfully request that you consider the potentially serious consequences that passage of House Bill HB5112 may have on a my personal safety, my family's safety, and my personal property when formulating your decision on the matter.

By copy of this email, I am requesting that it be forwarded to the Joint Committee on Public Safety & Security for consideration as well.

Thank you,

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