



CONNECTICUT POLICE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

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TESTIMONY TO THE BIPARTISAN TASK FORCE ON GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION AND CHILDREN'S SAFETY

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Representing the Connecticut Police Chiefs Association

The Connecticut Police Chiefs Association (CPCA) represents law enforcement interests throughout the state and is honored to be here today to present testimony for consideration to the task force.

Over the years, CPCA has been allowed to present its views to the legislature on a number of firearms related initiatives, many of which have been enacted into law.

Below are a number of recommendations that CPCA supports, some of which already have Bills proposed:

- **Eliminate Certificates of Eligibility**

Eliminate the certificate of eligibility established under section 29-36f, therefore requiring a state pistol or revolver permit to carry also for the purchase of a pistol or revolver. The difference is unlike certificates of eligibility permits to carry start with the local Chief of Police.

- **Require a State Permit to Purchase Rifles and Shotguns**

Require a state permit to purchase rifles or shotguns, with the same application process outlined under state law for pistol or revolver permits establish a similar process for the purchasing of rifles and shotguns.

- **Regulation of Private Long Gun Sales and Requiring Universal Background Checks and Record Keeping for all Firearm Purchases**

Require the same background check and record keeping requirements for each sale or transfer of a rifle or shotgun as is currently required for each sale of a handgun, including all secondary and private sales of such long guns, including all sales at gun shows.

- **Limit Firearms Permit Applications to One Per Year in the Town of Residence**
 Allow individuals to apply only to the local authorities in their town of permanent residence for a temporary state pistol or revolver permit, and to apply for such a permit only once per every twelve months in the aggregate
- **Require Presentation of a State Firearms Permit to Purchase Ammunition**
 Require the presentation of a valid, state-issued firearms permit in order to purchase any ammunition.
- **Firearms Permit to an Individual Who Has Been Involuntarily Committed**
 Prohibit the granting of a pistol or revolver permit to any individual who has been confined in a hospital for persons for psychiatric disabilities within the preceding 60 months by order of a probate court, instead of the current 12 month look back period.
- **Suitability for a Pistol or Revolver Permit**
 Define the term "suitability" in sections 29-28 and 29-29, respectively; and to amend section 29-29 of the general statutes to: allow firearms permit issuing authorities 12 weeks instead of 8 weeks to render their decision, allow firearms permit issuing authorities the right to request any documentation necessary to determine suitability. When determining suitability allow the issuing authority to consider anything that may be relevant such as mental health disabilities, crimes, drug use, military service history, police contact history with applicant, etc.
- **Eliminate the Board of Firearms Permit Examiners**
 Eliminate the Board of Firearms Permit Examiners, instead allowing individuals aggrieved by any decision of a firearms permit issuing authority to appeal directly to the Superior Court or change the makeup of the Board. Explore other options.
- **Gun Shows**
 Require the promoter of a gun show, under section 29-37g, to receive a permit to have such show from either the Chief of Police or Chief Elected Official of the town where it is proposed to be held. Also within the same section allow the Chief of Police to assign as many officers as he or she feels is necessary at a cost to the promoter.
- **Establish a Gun Offender Registry**
 Require individuals convicted of certain firearms offenses or certain other violent crimes with a weapon to register with the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection and their local law enforcement authorities for a period of five years after their release into the community, and to report to their local law

enforcement authorities regularly during their registration period. Such registry would be accessible to law enforcement only.

- **Safe Storage of Firearms**

Require that safe storage requirements apply not only if someone under the age of 16 is likely to gain access to the firearm, but also whenever there is a resident of the dwelling that is ineligible under state or federal law to possess the firearm.

- **Explore Banning Assault Weapons**

Review state statute to either expand or ban the sales of Assault type weapons

- **Banning Large Capacity Magazines**

Ban the possession, sale, transfer or importation into the state of any magazine that accepts more than ten rounds of ammunition.

- **Banning Certain Types of Unreasonably Dangerous Ammunition**

Prohibit the possession, sale, transfer or importation into the state for all calibers of armor piercing ammunition, and certain exploding or incendiary ammunition.

In closing, law enforcement and the military should be exempt from any restrictions as to weapons, magazine capacity and ammunition.

