

CONNECTICUT CITIZENS DEFENSE LEAGUE

CCDL



PUBLIC HEARING GUIDE

Rev. March 2025

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PUBLIC HEARING GUIDE

Introduction:

Public hearings occur when the given committee wants to proceed with a bill. **This is an opportunity for YOU to voice your opinion of a bill before the committee decides to vote upon it.** This is an essential part of the legislative process, and one of the biggest ways that the citizenry can decide what happens in their state.

You DO NOT need to be an expert to testify.

Written testimony also does not need to be lengthy.

There are two main routes:

1. Submit Written Testimony Online
2. Testify Live In-Person or on Zoom (3 mins max)

If not you, then who? If not now, then when?

Fight for your rights, answer the call of our Action Alerts!

If you still have questions? Contact CCDL via social media, or email Legislative Coordinator, Matt Strasser directly at legislative@ccd.us

If you did not receive our Action Alert via email:

Join CCDL at [CCDL.US/Join](https://www.ccd.us/Join)



HOW TO WRITE WRITTEN TESTIMONY

Write Your Written Testimony

- Clearly express your support/opposition to the bill, ex. starting with “I’m writing in support/opposition of bill_____”
- Keep it short, sweet, and polite. *Limit your writing to one page or less.*
- Give personal reasons for why this bill impacts you, driving you to testify before the committee.
- Highlight the positive/negative effects that the bill has on you and other groups of people. *See the Action Alert for possible talking points.*
- Any testimony is better than none! *If you’re not the best writer, don’t worry. Your opinion matters!*

Submit Your Written Testimony

- Navigate to the online form for the given committee at cga.ct.gov .
 - *See the Action Alert for the link.*
- Fill out the form COMPLETELY: *Select hearing date, the bill(s) you wish to comment on, select how you wish to submit your testimony, type in the box or attach a PDF with your testimony, select “I am not a robot”, select “submit testimony”, and acknowledge the popup verification boxes.*
- If you’re speaking in support/opposition of bills during the same hearing, break up your testimony into support/oppose submissions.
- Submit 24 hrs in advance to avoid technical hiccups.


Send a Copy to Your Legislators

- Navigate to the “find your legislator” tool at cga.ct.gov
- Use the tool to acquire the names/emails of your legislators
- Email them with a copy of your testimony, informing them that their constituent(s) will be testifying and you would appreciate their support.



WRITTEN TESTIMONY PORTAL

*for your reference,
ensure that you complete ALL fields



Connecticut General Assembly
State Capitol | Hartford, Connecticut 06106-1562

Judiciary Committee Written Testimony Submission


Note: To submit your testimony anonymously, use anonymous for the first and last name.

<p>★First Name</p> <input style="width: 90%;" type="text" value="Samuel"/>	<p>★Last Name</p> <input style="width: 90%;" type="text" value="Colt"/>
<p>Title</p> <input style="width: 90%;" type="text" value="Member"/>	<p>Organization or Agency (If Applicable)</p> <input style="width: 90%;" type="text" value="CCDL"/>
<p>★Hearing Date and Time</p> <input style="width: 90%;" type="text" value="3/12/2025 10:00:00 AM"/>	<p>★Supports or Opposes</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Supports</p> <p><input checked="" type="radio"/> Opposes</p> <p><input type="radio"/> General Comments</p>
<p>★Bill Number(s) (Hold down CTRL key to select multiple bills.)</p> <div style="border: 1px solid #ccc; padding: 5px; font-size: small;"> <p>SB01441 - AAC DISCRETIONARY TRANSFER FROM JUVENILE TO A HB07042 - AAC IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FIREARM INDUSTRY RE HB07070 - AAC THE DUTY TO RETREAT IN A HOUSE OF RELIGIOU HB07137 - AAC A CONVICTION IN ANOTHER JURISDICTION AS A DI HB07194 - AAC SELF-DEFENSE AND CONCERNING THE TRANSFE</p> </div>	<p>★How do I want to submit my testimony?</p> <p><input checked="" type="radio"/> Type In My Testimony</p> <p><input type="radio"/> Upload A File I Select</p> <p>Click the icon to see how you can save documents as PDFs</p>

My Testimony

To the members of the Judiciary Committee,
 I write to you today in vehement opposition of bill HB07042. This bill affects me personally/community at large for xyz reason(s). Please vote nay to bill HB07042.
 Thank you for your time and consideration,
 Samuel Colt, Hartford

✓ I'm not a robot



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Submit Testimony

< Back to Committee

Select a hearing date and a bill or topic to ensure you can submit your testimony.



SAMPLE WRITTEN TESTIMONY

Please refer to this sample written testimony for format, tone, and delivery.

I would like to state my support for H.B. 7052, **AN ACT CONCERNING LARGE CAPACITY MAGAZINES AND THE SALE OF AMMUNITION**. While I believe there should be no limit on magazine capacity, in light of the fact that the current limit is 10 rounds, I strongly urge the Committee to support this bill.

For my testimony I draw heavily from the 2021 National Firearms Survey: Updated Analysis Including Types of Firearms Owned, cited below

- 31% of American gun owners have used a gun to defend themselves, often more than once in their lifetime.
- It is largely ignored fact, established across a number of studies, that Americans use firearms to defend themselves an estimated 1.67 million times per year. The magnitude of this number is not well understood, even by gun owners.
- Handguns were the predominant self-defense weapon 66% of the time.
- More than half those incidents occurred outside the home (54%).
- 51% of the time the victim faced more than one assailant.
- Published hit ratios by trained law enforcement officers varies greatly by study, from less than 20% to approximately 60%.

How do all these statistics inform the topic of magazine capacity limits? First, that the Defensive Gun Use (DGU) is far more prevalent than most people realize, and thus simply can not be ignored in any legitimate policy discussion. Second, that the majority of DGUs are resolved without bloodshed. However, and this is where CT's stance on magazine capacity is relevant - the majority of attacks occur outside the home, and more than one assailant is involved.

In the case where an attacker is not dissuaded by the presentation of a gun and lethal force is justified, it is generally accepted that 2-3 hits are required to stop an attacker. That means for a victim shooting as accurately as a police officer there may well not be enough capacity in 10 rounds to stop a single attacker, much less the more prevalent scenario of more than one attacker.

While supporters of magazine limits try to claim an improvement in public safety, there has never been any evidence of this claim provided that I'm aware of. Thus, the 10 round magazine limit needlessly handicaps legal gun owners while providing no proven value in public safety and I urge this committee to support H.B. 7052.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments.

Tom Maloney, CCDL Research Coordinator

Writer's block? Refer to the Action Alert for talking points, and see other testimonies that have been submitted for the same bill.



HOW TO TESTIFY LIVE IN-PERSON

Write/Submit Your Written Testimony

- Follow the directions on the “How to Submit Written Testimony” page to write your testimony, and submit it for the committee’s reference.
- Be mindful, you have a limit of three minutes to speak.
 - *Practice at home to ensure that you do not exceed the limit.*

How to Testify In-Person

- To testify live, you MUST register in advance by 3PM the day prior.
 - *See the Action Alert for the link.*
- When registered successfully, you will get a “pending approval” email.
- The night prior to the hearing, the speaking order will be posted on the committee’s cga.ct.gov page.
 - *(Ex. from cga.ct.gov, Select Committees> Select Judiciary> Select Public Hearings, Select Testimony, Select Hearing Date, Select Click for Speaker Order)*
- Arrive to the Legislative Office Building (LOB) at least 10-12 speakers prior to you.
- When you are called, approach the stand and begin your testimony.
 - *Some additional notes for testifying live: Introduce yourself including the town you reside in, explicitly state what bills you’re testifying on and what your position is, be polite and direct if the committee has questions regarding your testimony.*



HOW TO TESTIFY LIVE VIA ZOOM

Write/Submit Your Written Testimony

- Follow the directions on the “How to Submit Written Testimony” page to write your testimony, and submit it for the committee’s reference.
- Be mindful, you have a limit of three minutes to speak.
 - *Practice to ensure that you do not exceed the limit.*

• How to Testify Via Zoom

- To testify live, you MUST register in advance by 3PM the day prior.
 - *See the Action Alert for the link.*
- When registered successfully, you will get a “pending approval” email.
- The night prior to the hearing, the speaking order will be posted on the committee’s cga.ct.gov page.
 - *(Ex. from cga.ct.gov, Select Committees> Select Judiciary> Select Public Hearings, Select Testimony, Select Hearing Date, Select Click for Speaker Order)*
- Log into Zoom at least 10-12 speakers prior to you.
 - *The Zoom invite link will be sent in advance.*
- Right before it’s your turn to speak on Zoom, you will receive an invite to become a presenter. Accept this invite.
- Make sure to mute your microphone until you are called.
- When you are called, unmute your microphone, turn on your camera, and present your testimony.
 - *Some additional notes for testifying live: Introduce yourself including the town you reside in, explicitly state what bills you’re testifying on and what your position is, be polite and direct if the committee has questions regarding your testimony.*



HOW TO TESTIFY LIVE VIA PHONE

Write/Submit Your Written Testimony

- Follow the directions on the “How to Submit Written Testimony” page to write your testimony, and submit it for the committee’s reference.
- Be mindful, you have a limit of three minutes to speak.
 - *Practice to ensure that you do not exceed the limit.*

• How to Testify via Phone

- Call the Phone Registrant Line at (860) 240-0560 and leave your contact information and what bills you wish to speak on.
- The night prior to the hearing, the speaking order will be posted on the committee’s cga.ct.gov page.
 - *(Ex. from cga.ct.gov, Select Committees> Select Judiciary> Select Public Hearings, Select Testimony, Select Hearing Date, Select Click for Speaker Order)*
- You will receive a call prior to your turn to testify.
- When you are called, begin your testimony.
 - *Some additional notes for testifying live: Introduce yourself including the town you reside in, explicitly state what bills you’re testifying on and what your position is, be polite and direct if the committee has questions regarding your testimony.*

