



Connecticut Citizens Defense League
P.O. Box 120
Southbury, CT 06488

April 10, 2020

Governor Ned Lamont
210 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Governor Lamont:

The Connecticut Citizens Defense League (CCDL) is a non-partisan, grassroots organization of more than 36,000 members, committed to protecting the unalienable right of all citizens to keep and bear arms. Accordingly, our organization and its membership are deeply concerned about the complete stop to the issuance of firearm permits since your issuance of Executive Order 7E.

As I am sure you know, per state statute, lawful persons seeking to purchase a firearm or ammunition, or to carry a firearm for personal protection, are required to have a permit issued by the State of Connecticut. To obtain a permit, an applicant must provide the state (with other documentation) a set of fingerprints. Connecticut General Statutes § 29-17c mandates the collection of those fingerprints by law-enforcement.

On March 17, 2020, your Executive Order 7E suspended C.G.S. 29-17c, the result being that law enforcement throughout the state are refusing to collect fingerprints for firearms permit purposes, even though fingerprinting continues for other purposes. This has effectively halted the issuance of firearm permits in Connecticut. As you are also likely aware, the right to purchase and/or to possess a firearm is a fundamental right guaranteed each of us by the United States Constitution and our State Constitution.

While we understand this has been a period of unprecedented challenges, many Connecticut residents are being denied their constitutional rights just when they feel the exercise of those rights is most needed. We respect your intention to mitigate further illness. However, it is in these unprecedented times that extreme favor must be given to the most essential rights of the people of Connecticut. We are therefore asking that the fingerprinting and permitting process be reinstated immediately. In the alternative, we ask that you temporarily waive the fingerprint requirement for firearms permit applications, substituting instead a sworn affidavit attesting that the applicant is not legally prohibited from obtaining such a permit.

We recognize that Connecticut is not the only state to prevent the issuance of firearm permits during this state of emergency. Both New York and California also took action that ultimately denied their citizens' Constitutional rights. However, the conduct of both of those states is now being challenged in court. We would rather not take that path in Connecticut, but we are fully prepared to do so if necessary.

We are eager to resolve this issue as expediently as possible. Please have someone from your office contact us right away to avert the need for us to seek relief from the courts.

Thank you for your time and attention to this most critical matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Holly Sullivan", is written over a horizontal line.

Holly Sullivan

President
Connecticut Citizens Defense League
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