

Chairperson Craven and Members of House Judiciary Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for House Bill 5653, which would prohibit any licensing authority from imposing stricter requirements or additional fees beyond those outlined in General Law 11-47-42.

This bill is a crucial improvement to current law. Some cities and towns are charging up to \$340 for a concealed carry weapon (CCW) permit by imposing a 'processing fee', despite the state law specifying that the fee should only be \$40. Such excessive fees serve as a significant deterrent for many individuals who may otherwise apply, particularly affecting the most vulnerable members of our community who are the least likely to afford such a high cost.

I urge you to vote yes on this bill and pass it out of committee to advance to the House floor for a vote.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

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