

I am writing to express my opposition to the bill in committee to confiscate all weapons when police respond to a domestic argument call.

I am against this bill because it will leave the target of any aggressor with no ability to protect themselves.

From personal experience I can tell you, you cannot remove all weapons and you will leave the vulnerable with no means of self-defense. A restraining order is meaningless against someone who is intent on retribution.

My ex who is 6'3, was a champion wrestler, and aggressor was issued restraining orders. He was also enrolled in anger management courses. That did not however stop him from attempting to kill me by running over my bicycle with his work van.

Luckily for me I was at a steep drive, young and very fit at the time. I peddled up the steep drive, twisted out of my clips, jumped away and turned to see my mountain bike Converted into a pretzel. It was meant to be me. It was my good fortune that people were in the home, saw this happen and called the police. They also let me in until the police could respond.

Recently in 2015, I went to watch my nephew race mx. I soon found out my ex of nearly 20 years was there because he yelled loudly in front of many people at me. As you can see some people even with counseling and time remain a threat. Dis-arming the target of that threat is not rational.

I have been told that there is only one trooper who serves the western part of Rutland County. There is no way they can respond quickly enough to stop someone determined to hurt another person. As a matter of fact in 2010 a good high school friend's sister was murdered in Wells by her husband. The police response was inadequate. This is only a slice of that story. <http://www.wcax.com/story/12498348/murder-charges-dropped-against-teen>

H.422 is clearly a case where you would be punishing the underdog and further empowering the aggressor. Nothing will be solved.

The aggressor should be removed and even the target may need to be removed to an unknown location if the aggressor cannot be detained. The only solution is mental health services.

But to take away the right of a victim to self-defense makes absolutely no sense.

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