

H.569 Testimony
January 2016

To whom it may concern:

My name is Joseph Goldsbury and I currently work at Akes Place on Church Street in Burlington. It was brought to my attention by Mr. Roof that the issue of gun control in bars has been brought up to a discussion today. I have worked at Akes Place for almost 2 years now as well as other bar/restaurants for almost 12 years now. I understand the law, especially when it comes to gun control and the freedoms of an American citizen, the freedom to hold arms. My only objection that I have come across over my tenure while working at Akes Place is the fear that this law entails. What I mean by that is that at certain times I have come across situations (both inside and while leaving the bar to get to my car). Those situations have very easily made me believe that a "confrontation" may result, unless I could talk either a patron or a random street go'er "down". I am not a person to scream Wolfe or judge but sometimes when you're all alone either bartending or walking to your car you can get a little worried. I have seen people I have known for years have a gun and pull it out while intoxicated downtown and have felt that there was no way I could possibly talk them out of possibly making an incredibly horrible decision. I am a 28 year old kid in the process of get engaged, buying a house and also love the bar I work for. I am not scared to work late nights. But the beautiful girl I am about to ask to marry me stays up until I get home every night which is usually until about 4 am in the morning. Why? Because she is scared. For me. Overall in the general scheme of things I am not one to make a decision on gun control. However, when it comes to guns on church street and everything Mr. Roof has to say on the issue. I couldn't agree with him more. Thank you.

Joe Goldsbury