

LETTER TO GOVERNOR MALLOY

From Attorney Rachel M. Baird, Dated September 17, 2014

*Regarding Connecticut Ex Parte Restraining Orders, Due Process,
and Amending the Laws to Discourage Abuse of Process and Protect
Victims of Domestic Violence*

In September 2014, Attorney Baird delivered a letter to Governor Malloy that was later included as an exhibit in a packet submitted to the Judiciary Committee during the 2015 General Assembly Session concerning the restraining order process in Connecticut.

With the passage of HB-5054, *An Act Protecting Victims of Domestic Violence*, on April 27, 2016, in the House of Representatives, it is apparent that beyond confiscating firearms the majority of our political leaders have no more concern for victims of domestic violence than has been demonstrated since Sandy Hook for the mentally ill. Both of these vulnerable populations are exploited without shame by political leaders as expedient means to an end.

A real concern for victims of domestic violence would address the abuses of the system. Only by limiting the process to relief for the victims whom the laws are intended to protect will the courts and law enforcement have the resources to afford the protections promised. In ignoring these abuses it is apparent that the victims of domestic violence are not the concern. The passage of HB-5054 will continue to signal that any use of the restraining order process, whether legitimate or not, is acceptable as long as it achieves the confiscation of firearms.

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