

# The Connecticut General Assembly



For IMMEDIATE Release  
April 28, 2016

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## REP. HEWETT WELCOMES DOMESTIC VIOLENCE REFORMS

**State Representative Ernest Hewett** (D-New London) is pleased to announce that the House of Representatives passed H.B. 5054, An Act Protecting Victims of Domestic Abuse.

After several hours of debate on the House floor, the measure was approved and now goes to the Senate for consideration.

“This is a critical measure that required immediate action if we are talking about helping victims of domestic abuse,” **Rep. Hewett** said. “I heard opponents of this measure talk about due process and the integrity of the Second Amendment, but this is not about any of that. This bill only seeks to protect survivors of domestic violence when they need it most.”

**Rep. Hewett** noted, “We heard testimony of victims, experts and others who brought to light the importance of doing what we can to give help them feel safer as they consider options before them.”

The bill will require individuals to surrender their firearms within 24 hours of being served with a temporary restraining order. If the restraining order is not made permanent, the firearm is returned to its owner.

“The most dangerous time for survivors of domestic violence immediately follows the serving of a temporary restraining order,” **Rep. Hewett** said. “This bill guarantees a full hearing in front of a judge within seven days, which indeed is due process, and I also truly believe that this measure will help us save lives.”

Twenty other states, including Texas, give judges the authority to remove firearms when a restraining order is issued.

The 2016 Legislative Session adjourns May 4.

Rep. Hewett is serving his sixth term in the CT General Assembly.

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