

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

January 28, 2016

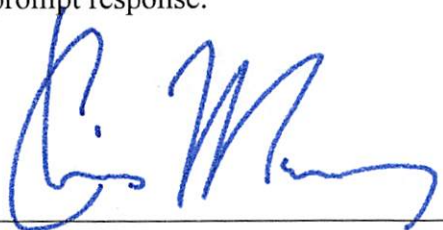
Wayne Pesce
President
Connecticut Food Association
433 South Main Street, Suite 309
West Hartford, CT 06100

Dear Mr. Pesce:

We write today to urge you to adopt a policy that would prohibit the open carry of firearms in your member stores. In doing so, you would be sending an important message about your commitment to the safety of your employees and customers. This would follow similar actions by many food retailers, such as Chipotle, Sonic, Chili's, Target, Panera Bread, Starbucks and Whole Foods.

Although Connecticut law allows for open carry, supermarkets, food retailers, and other private establishments have the legal authority to ban firearms from their premises. There is simply no reason someone would need to bring their gun with them in order to purchase milk, bread, or other necessities at a grocery store. Customers should feel safe while shopping, and employees should not be fearful while doing their jobs. You have the opportunity to take a strong stance in support of creating a safe, welcoming environment in Connecticut's food retailers.

Again, we urge you to implement a new policy that would prevent the open carry of guns in your member stores. Thank you in advance for your consideration, and we look forward to your prompt response.

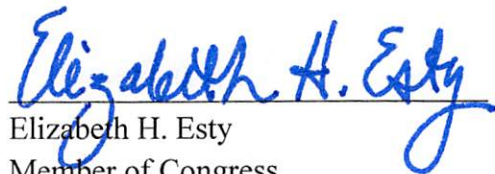


Christopher S. Murphy
United States Senate

Sincerely,



Richard Blumenthal
United States Senate



Elizabeth H. Esty
Member of Congress