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I am here to oppose passage of SB#607, an act concerning the identification of certain firearms, etc. This sounds appealing to anyone anxious to reduce crime, but it seems to me to be of very little practical value. I have heard from reliable sources that the technology can easily be defeated with simple household tools. And it only covers semi-automatics. What about all those non microstamped revolvers?

The technology would make the manufacture of new firearms more expensive. It is not sensible to think that most firearms used in crimes are legally purchased. The only people adversely affected by this legislation would be people like me. I am a law abiding mother, a retired high school Art teacher who took up sport shooting some fifteen years ago as an activity I can continue to do as I grow older. Why would it make sense to impose such expensive and apparently useless technology on manufacturers and law abiding citizens who wish to legitimately purchase firearms for legal use? Particularly since it would seem to offer very little impediment to someone with criminal intent?

As to the section regarding imposing restrictions on the sale of long guns similar to those now in effect on the purchase of handguns, what percentage of violent crimes are committed using shotguns or rifles? They are very hard to conceal and are unwieldy in close quarters. It seems a waste of your time.

SB#603 providing for the coding of ammunition sold in this state seems even less practical. Knowing who bought the ammunition doesn't tell who pulled the trigger. Reloading shells in larger calibers is easy, popular, and would completely bypass the coding process. The additional step of encoding ammunition would add to the cost. Connecticut is a very small state. Most residents could get to another state to buy ammunition in less than an hour. Why would anyone go through all the delay and inconvenience to buy more expensive ammunition here in Connecticut? Certainly no one with criminal intent for that ammunition is going to do so. It sounds good to be "doing something about crime" but these two bills do not make the grade.