

## Micro-stamping Bill #S.353

My name is Meg Sautter and I reside in Newington, CT. I'm a retired Police Officer after 20 years with the Newington Police Department. I'm an avid shooter, target, and gun owner.

As a retired police officer I'm well aware of explosion of gun violence in this State and the importance of attempting to contain/eliminate it. The Microstamping proposal bill # S.353 offers nothing to this end. What it does offer is to deny Connecticut citizens access to new pistols. Therefore the obligation is to ensure any proposals are Constitutional and that they not deprive the rights of law abiding citizens access to handguns.

Similar bills to this have failed in a number of states, including VA, post-VA Tech tragedy. Reasons for failure include the fact that micro-stamping has repeatedly failed in tests. Additionally, firing pins, which produce the micro-stamping can be easily changed. 'Microstamped' cartridges can simply be removed from a crime scene. Worse, a different cartridge, stamped or not, could be left at a crime scene creating a diversion.

Most criminals who use guns for crimes did not acquire them legally. The guns used in crimes are usually older and often obtained from a burglary. This could cause a potential increase in burglaries where older, non-micro-stamping guns would be targeted.

As a member of the Law Enforcement community, I think the last thing we need is more laws created. We have numerous laws ALREADY on the books dealing with this issue. Enforcing some of the laws already in existence would be a much smarter course of action. For example, charging a defendant with 'possession of a hand gun' is almost always used as a tool in plea bargaining. Due to this type of plea bargaining, the 'possession' statutes are rendered ineffective because they are rarely enforced. Make 'gun possession' statutes have a mandatory minimum sentence.

In summary I urge this Committee to reject the Micro-stamping bill #S.353 because it has no public safety value. This proposal is unconstitutional and economically undesirable as it could cost CT jobs. It will put many Federal Firearms Licensing dealers out of business causing lost sales tax revenue in the one segment of our economy that seems to be flourishing.

I ask that the Committee engage the Law Enforcement community and the Sportsman's community to pursue avenues that punish criminal acts with firearms while protecting the interests of law abiding citizens.

Thank you for allowing me this opportunity to speak.

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