



**NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA
INSTITUTE FOR LEGISLATIVE ACTION
11250 WAPLES MILL ROAD
FAIRFAX, VIRGINIA 22030-7400**

Anna Kopperud John Hohenwarter
State Liaison State Liaison

Memorandum

Date: **March 14, 2013**

To: **Honorable Members of the Public Safety and Security Committee**

From: **Anna Kopperud and John Hohenwarter**

RE: **Proposed Firearm Legislation**

On behalf of the National Rifle Association, we would like to share our concerns regarding numerous pieces of legislation that are being heard before the Public Safety and Security Committee today. These proposals, which range from gun rationing schemes to gun bans, along with many others, have been put forth in response to the Sandy Hook tragedy.

Introduced under the guise of public safety, these measures will have very little effect in mitigating crime. Rather, they will negatively affect law-abiding gun owners through further regulation and possible infringement of constitutional rights.

Many of the proposals being considered would lead one to believe that Connecticut has a crime rate of epic proportions. However, the data indicates that this is not the case.

Connecticut has historically had lower total violent crime rates than the rest of the nation, overall (see Table 1). The Federal Bureau of Investigation considers violent crime to be murder and non-negligent manslaughter, forcible rape, robbery and aggravated assault. However, even after the numerous gun control acts established on the federal level since 1968, the relationship has not changed between Connecticut's violent crime rates and those of the rest of the country despite Connecticut having more restrictions than most states.

As previously noted, Connecticut, over recent years, has imposed more gun control restrictions than nearly every state in the country. However, those restrictions have no correlation with the state's relatively low violent crime (see Table 1). In fact, the comparable differences between Connecticut's rates and those of the rest of the country have narrowed. As Connecticut has imposed more gun control measures, gun control laws in the rest of the country have been eliminated or comparatively relaxed.

Other factors causing Connecticut to have relatively low violent crime rates include, but are not necessarily limited to, its relatively cold climate (violent crime rates tend to be higher in warmer climates) and relatively low degree of urbanization (cities tend to have higher crime rates than suburban and rural areas). Illustrating the point, Connecticut's most populous city, Bridgeport (pop. 145,000) is the 167th most populous city in the nation. New Haven (pop. 130,000) ranks 185th, Hartford (pop. 125,000) ranks 196th, and Stamford (pop. 123,000) ranks 200th. Together, these four cities account for 14.6 percent of the state's population. Nationally, cities of 100,000 or greater population account for 28 percent of the total population, nearly double the percentage in Connecticut.

Additional evidence that restrictive gun control laws do not correlate with lower violent crime rates is demonstrated by a comparison of the aggregate violent crime rate of Connecticut plus Massachusetts (which has even more restrictive gun control laws than Connecticut), to the aggregate of three neighboring states that have among the least restrictive gun control laws in the nation, Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont. As shown in Table 2, these three New England states that have less gun control have had significantly lower violent crime rates.

Taking all of this into consideration, there is no justification to warrant the drastic policy changes in firearm laws that are currently under consideration. Redirecting the debate towards fixing our broken mental health system and securing our schools is the appropriate response.

To that end, the National Rifle Association will continue working with the legislature to facilitate the implementation of effective policies that further protect the safety of our families.

Table 1: Total violent crime and murder rates, United States and Connecticut, 1960-2011

Source: FBI

Year	Total violent crime			Murder			Robbery		
	U.S. minus Conn.	Conn.	lower by	U.S. minus Conn.	Conn.	lower by	U.S. minus Conn.	Conn.	lower by
1960	162.6	36.6	-77.5%	5.1	1.6	-68.5%	60.9	9.3	-84.7%
1961	159.9	33.6	-79.0%	4.8	1.0	-80.2%	59.0	9.1	-84.6%
1962	164.1	36.1	-78.0%	4.6	1.3	-71.8%	60.4	9.9	-83.5%
1963	169.9	44.7	-73.7%	4.6	1.8	-61.9%	62.5	13.7	-78.0%
1964	192.4	64.1	-66.7%	4.9	1.8	-64.2%	69.0	15.0	-78.3%
1965	202.1	69.7	-65.5%	5.2	1.6	-68.8%	72.4	19.3	-73.4%
1966	222.1	74.6	-66.4%	5.7	2.0	-65.2%	81.7	20.9	-74.4%
1967	255.5	95.9	-62.5%	6.3	2.4	-61.7%	103.8	32.2	-69.0%
1968	300.9	129.3	-57.0%	7.0	2.5	-64.7%	133.1	45.0	-66.2%
1969	331.4	147.2	-55.6%	7.4	2.9	-61.2%	149.8	56.5	-62.3%
1970	366.5	170.4	-53.5%	7.9	3.5	-56.0%	173.7	70.4	-59.4%
1971	399.0	193.7	-51.5%	8.7	3.1	-64.2%	189.6	83.2	-56.1%
1972	404.0	199.2	-50.7%	9.1	3.2	-64.2%	182.2	79.1	-56.6%
1973	420.5	208.7	-50.4%	9.4	3.3	-64.9%	184.6	84.2	-54.4%
1974	464.5	228.1	-50.9%	9.9	3.3	-66.9%	211.0	92.3	-56.3%
1975	491.1	268.4	-45.3%	9.7	3.9	-60.1%	222.1	131.5	-40.8%
1976	470.7	273.2	-42.0%	8.8	3.1	-64.8%	200.4	122.9	-38.7%
1977	478.7	282.3	-41.0%	8.9	4.2	-52.3%	191.6	129.5	-32.4%
1978	500.5	315.0	-37.1%	9.0	4.2	-53.9%	196.4	154.8	-21.2%
1979	550.8	414.2	-24.8%	9.8	4.2	-57.2%	218.8	193.3	-11.6%
1980	599.2	412.5	-31.2%	10.3	4.7	-54.2%	251.6	218.0	-13.3%
1981	595.5	448.1	-24.8%	9.9	5.4	-45.7%	258.6	246.1	-4.8%
1982	573.2	399.5	-30.3%	9.1	5.2	-43.0%	239.2	208.5	-12.8%
1983	540.3	375.0	-30.6%	8.3	4.1	-50.6%	216.9	200.6	-7.5%
1984	541.9	393.8	-27.3%	8.0	3.9	-51.5%	205.9	190.5	-7.5%
1985	560.2	402.0	-28.2%	8.0	3.8	-52.9%	209.5	190.0	-9.3%
1986	622.8	425.8	-31.6%	8.6	4.6	-46.3%	226.5	192.2	-15.1%
1987	615.1	419.0	-31.9%	8.3	4.9	-41.7%	214.1	178.1	-16.8%
1988	643.1	455.4	-29.2%	8.5	5.4	-36.8%	222.5	187.6	-15.7%
1989	669.0	511.8	-23.5%	8.7	5.9	-32.9%	234.6	214.8	-8.4%
1990	732.0	553.7	-24.4%	9.5	5.1	-46.6%	256.5	234.8	-8.5%
1991	761.1	539.7	-29.1%	9.9	5.7	-42.3%	273.4	224.4	-17.9%
1992	761.1	495.3	-34.9%	9.4	5.1	-46.0%	264.4	210.9	-20.2%
1993	750.9	456.2	-39.2%	9.6	6.3	-34.2%	256.7	196.7	-23.4%
1994	716.9	455.5	-36.5%	9.0	6.6	-27.0%	238.4	187.8	-21.2%
1995	688.0	405.9	-41.0%	8.3	4.6	-44.6%	221.6	163.2	-26.4%
1996	639.4	412.0	-35.6%	7.4	4.8	-35.1%	202.3	169.6	-16.2%
1997	613.7	390.9	-36.3%	6.8	3.8	-44.5%	186.6	152.9	-18.1%
1998	570.1	366.3	-35.7%	6.3	4.1	-34.6%	165.9	133.8	-19.4%
1999	525.1	345.6	-34.2%	5.7	3.3	-43.0%	150.4	123.5	-17.9%
2000	508.8	324.7	-36.2%	5.6	2.9	-48.3%	145.4	112.5	-22.6%
2001	506.6	334.6	-34.0%	5.7	3.1	-45.9%	148.8	121.8	-18.1%
2002	496.6	312.5	-37.1%	5.7	2.4	-57.2%	146.5	117.6	-19.7%
2003	477.8	316.8	-33.7%	5.7	3.2	-43.8%	142.7	120.8	-15.4%
2004	465.3	289.0	-37.9%	5.5	2.9	-48.3%	136.9	119.7	-12.6%
2005	471.4	272.6	-42.2%	5.7	3.0	-47.2%	141.1	112.3	-20.4%
2006	475.7	298.6	-37.2%	5.7	3.9	-31.5%	149.7	126.9	-15.2%
2007	468.9	301.1	-35.8%	5.6	3.2	-42.8%	147.9	122.9	-16.9%
2008	459.3	306.5	-33.3%	5.4	3.8	-30.5%	146.1	115.4	-21.0%
2009	430.9	300.9	-30.2%	5.0	3.0	-39.6%	133.2	113.7	-14.6%
2010	405.1	281.4	-30.5%	4.8	3.6	-24.1%	119.4	99.4	-16.7%
2011	387.6	272.8	-29.6%	4.7	3.6	-24.0%	113.9	102.7	-9.8%

Total violent crime and murder rates, Conn. + Mass. vs. Me. + N.H. + Vt., 1960-2011

Source: FBI

Year	Total violent crime			Conn. + Mass.	Murder			Conn. + Mass.	Robbery		
	Me. N.H. + Vt.	Me. etc. lower by			Me. N.H. + Vt.	Me. etc. lower by			Me. N.H. + Vt.	Me. etc. lower by	
1960	44.8	20.7	-53.8%	1.5	1.3	-15.0%	16.8	5.3	-68.4%		
1961	46.6	25.0	-46.3%	1.3	1.3	-0.4%	16.6	6.2	-62.8%		
1962	53.4	25.3	-52.6%	1.7	1.5	-10.7%	20.5	5.8	-71.5%		
1963	58.9	28.1	-52.3%	1.9	2.1	9.3%	22.5	6.7	-70.2%		
1964	78.1	36.3	-53.6%	1.9	1.1	-41.0%	25.3	6.4	-74.8%		
1965	88.5	33.1	-62.6%	2.1	2.0	-6.9%	32.8	5.1	-84.6%		
1966	101.1	39.9	-60.6%	2.2	2.0	-11.5%	37.2	7.0	-81.3%		
1967	116.5	44.6	-61.8%	2.7	1.5	-44.4%	45.0	6.9	-84.6%		
1968	151.8	50.8	-66.5%	3.1	2.4	-23.5%	64.0	8.7	-86.3%		
1969	173.5	60.5	-65.1%	3.3	2.1	-35.5%	78.6	10.6	-86.5%		
1970	191.6	74.9	-60.9%	3.5	1.7	-52.4%	89.4	11.4	-87.2%		
1971	240.8	81.7	-66.1%	3.6	1.9	-47.2%	120.3	14.0	-88.3%		
1972	261.9	91.9	-64.9%	3.6	3.4	-5.4%	127.2	16.3	-87.2%		
1973	302.4	97.9	-67.6%	4.0	2.1	-46.7%	148.1	15.7	-89.4%		
1974	332.9	108.9	-67.3%	4.0	3.2	-20.8%	170.6	24.3	-85.7%		
1975	382.2	152.8	-60.0%	4.1	2.7	-32.8%	193.9	29.6	-84.7%		
1976	355.2	153.1	-56.9%	3.3	3.5	6.2%	160.2	29.3	-81.7%		
1977	375.3	170.5	-54.6%	3.5	2.5	-28.8%	155.8	31.7	-79.7%		
1978	410.6	167.9	-59.1%	3.9	2.4	-39.1%	166.2	26.9	-83.8%		
1979	490.2	176.4	-64.0%	3.9	2.4	-38.3%	199.7	30.0	-85.0%		
1980	535.1	185.6	-65.3%	4.3	2.6	-39.7%	229.4	36.5	-84.1%		
1981	565.1	164.5	-70.9%	4.2	3.3	-22.5%	262.2	32.7	-87.5%		
1982	510.7	141.9	-72.2%	4.3	2.2	-48.9%	211.9	30.2	-85.7%		
1983	505.7	141.6	-72.0%	3.7	2.4	-36.8%	205.7	26.2	-87.3%		
1984	477.9	146.8	-69.3%	3.7	1.6	-57.6%	180.2	24.6	-86.4%		
1985	490.1	153.7	-68.6%	3.6	2.5	-30.6%	189.0	24.5	-87.0%		
1986	510.5	144.6	-71.7%	3.9	2.1	-47.3%	192.5	25.2	-86.9%		
1987	513.1	148.1	-71.1%	3.6	2.8	-24.0%	177.6	24.2	-86.4%		
1988	561.2	150.8	-73.1%	4.2	2.6	-39.1%	180.3	22.1	-87.8%		
1989	617.2	148.3	-76.0%	4.9	3.0	-38.8%	206.9	22.8	-89.0%		
1990	671.8	135.7	-79.8%	4.4	2.2	-49.8%	223.3	23.3	-89.6%		
1991	666.5	124.2	-81.4%	4.7	2.3	-50.9%	205.2	24.5	-88.1%		
1992	678.7	124.7	-81.6%	4.1	1.7	-57.3%	193.7	24.2	-87.5%		
1993	681.9	128.1	-81.2%	4.7	2.2	-53.9%	183.1	21.2	-88.4%		
1994	619.0	118.4	-80.9%	4.6	1.7	-63.3%	175.1	22.2	-87.3%		
1995	588.6	122.3	-79.2%	3.9	2.0	-49.5%	154.9	23.9	-84.5%		
1996	561.7	121.6	-78.4%	3.4	1.9	-44.4%	142.3	23.4	-83.6%		
1997	555.9	117.6	-78.8%	2.6	1.7	-35.7%	124.4	20.3	-83.7%		
1998	532.7	114.7	-78.5%	2.7	1.9	-31.3%	109.5	19.0	-82.6%		
1999	479.7	106.3	-77.8%	2.4	2.0	-18.7%	105.6	18.5	-82.4%		
2000	423.3	136.4	-67.8%	2.3	1.5	-35.5%	98.9	26.2	-73.5%		
2001	427.8	133.8	-68.7%	2.5	1.4	-46.0%	108.4	25.8	-76.1%		
2002	424.5	129.0	-69.6%	2.6	1.2	-52.9%	113.7	23.9	-79.0%		
2003	418.1	126.4	-69.8%	2.5	1.5	-41.3%	123.4	25.8	-79.1%		
2004	399.8	132.3	-66.9%	2.7	1.6	-42.4%	117.8	26.8	-77.3%		
2005	394.5	124.0	-68.6%	2.8	1.4	-50.3%	118.5	23.5	-80.1%		
2006	431.3	144.6	-66.5%	3.3	1.5	-53.1%	127.1	29.2	-77.0%		
2007	405.6	130.8	-67.7%	3.0	1.4	-54.3%	113.8	26.7	-76.5%		
2008	404.4	139.6	-65.5%	3.0	1.9	-36.1%	110.6	26.1	-76.4%		
2009	406.4	139.1	-65.8%	2.8	1.4	-50.0%	113.4	29.5	-74.0%		
2010	401.2	141.7	-64.7%	3.4	1.3	-59.9%	103.0	28.7	-72.1%		
2011	373.6	151.6	-59.4%	3.1	1.6	-49.4%	102.7	28.4	-72.4%		