

Dear Distinguished Members of the Public Safety and Security Committee,

As a Police Officer and US Marine Corporal, December 14th was shocking and appalling to me, as I am sure it was to you. I first heard about it from my wife over the phone. My initial reaction as an officer trained in Active Shooter response was to get to Newtown and assist. I called the Newtown PD and was told that they had the situation in hand.

Thoughts turned to my daughter and the security of her school, then to my brother, a tenured teacher, who has a pistol permit. How could they protect themselves? Thoughts of armed guards were at the top of the list. Surely those would be the first things on lawmaker's minds, however it seemed that the ball was already rolling in the wrong direction. The laws in place could not stop the criminal; new laws will receive the same acknowledgement by those that are intent on committing crime.

From many different walks of life we all have spent months trying to impart our years of collective experience in firearms, crime statistics and the like upon you. You have heard arguments for the 2nd Amendment and CT Constitution countless times. On 1/28/13 testimony from a retired CSP ballistic forensic expert (Marshal Robinson) describe how "AR" type sporting rifles accounted for barely 2% of the cases he examined. The Armalite Rifle platform (where the "AR" does not mean "Assault" anything) is simply a plain semi-automatic rifle, with some extra plastic parts. It is not a rifle that I, as a Marine, would deem suitable for military use.

Raised Bill No. 1076 overwhelmingly calls for effective confiscation that infringes on so many tried and true Amendments to the US Constitution. 1076 and other bills call for unreasonable restrictions on magazine capacities, including pistol magazines. Many pistols are inherently designed with propriety magazine capacities that are in excess of 10-15 rounds. Primarily permit holders who have passed rigorous background checks already own this property. Infringement is not confined to the 2nd Amendment. The 4th and 5th Amendments are protections may not have considered. Much more is at stake. Such taxation as found in 1071 is a proposition that is inherently designed to be unbeatable by virtue of tapping a person or companies' financial resources dry. This is constitutionally offensive. Akin to the poll tax, registration fees in similar circumstances have already been ruled a 14th amendment violation.

It is evident that you clearly are not reading your own proposals. 6251 and 506 are essentially the same besides the fingerprint requirement. And in 6251, subsection (c)(b) make no sense as they speak to (a); for if the provisions if that section shall not apply to those possessing a valid pistol permit re: of a waiting period, what good is the provision that fingerprint submissions must be obtained in (a), which call for a waiting period?

Proposed Bill No. 505, 'raises the age' from 18 to 21 for a person to legally purchase a rifle. A person may still enter the military at age 17 with their parent(s) consent, and can do so as an adult at age 18. In all other aspects of CT law, with few exceptions, a person is an adult at age 18. So the "Common Sense" behind this fly in the face of 6251

and 506, both stating that waiting period does not apply to active members of the armed forces or reserves. So which is it? Do you even know?

The proposals you will deliberate on, specifically: 505, 506, 710, 897, 1071, 1076, 6162, 6251, 6595, 6598 will result in a group of bad laws that will not likely pass constitutional tests. You will have created 100s of thousands of Felons out of those who have done nothing wrong, simply because they already own what is on your lists. As is already happening in other states, manufacturers are ceasing sales to law enforcement and are moving to other states. This is of utmost concern to me, for as a police officer this legislation will leave me more vulnerable on the street. You will be to blame. Law abiding gun owners are not of my concern. Criminals are. Jobs are all of our concern. In Connecticut, nearly 3,000 jobs are at risk along with over two billion dollars in economic activity.

We have seen time and time again in Connecticut and across the country, the criminals are let off with slaps on the wrists and **are allowed by the State to re-enter society and commit more crime.**

The police are doing their jobs with the laws already on the books. The prosecutors and courts are not. Petit Family Murders. Convicts. Parole. Family dead. Need I say more? **The State has failed its citizens and it is trying to do it again.**

I took an oath to uphold the US Constitution and that of this State, as did you. This State may find itself facing thousands of lawsuits. I will strongly support only legislation that is sound, effective, and does not infringe upon the God-given rights of the people and guaranteed by both the US and CT Constitutions.

It is time to slow this process down. You cannot justify this rapid pace. You cannot justify emergency certification of any bill. You simply cannot allow this. The public must be able to weigh in through testimony and public hearings at all times, not just invited 'experts' who are only 'your' experts. You must apply ample thought to this and not knee-jerk reactions. You do not even have an investigation report in hand and are working blind. Slow down and breathe. Do what is based on facts like those given in testimony Jan. 28th. Dismiss all proposals on the table.

Use the laws you have on the books. Enforce them to their fullest extent and provide resources for that. A lifetime of experience has shown me that you can put all the stop signs you want, but only the law-abiding citizens will stop for them. The same holds true for law-abiding firearms owners.

I strongly oppose all aspects of the aforementioned proposed bills.

Respectfully Submitted,

Brian N Harte