

H. B. 6251 Requiring Finger Printing and Criminal Background Check for Long Gun Sales

Oppose

I support the concept of background checks for long gun sales, but this bill specifies procedures that are extraordinarily difficult.

Purchasing a long gun should be the same as the current procedure for purchasing a handgun. If a person already has a pistol permit it should be good for long guns. If a person does not want a pistol permit they should be required to get a similar permit good only for long guns.

When making a long gun purchase the permit should be shown and the background check call made as it is currently done. Finger printing should only be required when obtaining the pistol or rifle permit.

H. B. 6595 Discharge of Firearms near Residences

Oppose

The wording of this bill would cause a person who legitimately defends themselves with a firearm guilty of a crime if they do it near a private residence.

This bill could possibly require some existing gun clubs or shooting ranges to have to close.

I support the general concept of not discharging firearms near private residences except in circumstances such as self defense, but the bill as written will have a lot of unintended consequences.

S. B. 505 Minimum Age to Purchase Long Gun

Support

H. B. 1076 Reduction of Gun Violence

Oppose

This bill completely overreaches and makes a mockery of your purported intention to enact reasonable gun laws. I can only see two purposes for this bill. The first is to make life as difficult as possible for citizens that own firearms. The second is as a blatant attempt to distract attention from other legislation that you are trying push through.

You should be ashamed that this bill has made it this far into the legislative process.

Testimony

While I sat all day listening to the testimony at the hearing for the Gun Violence Task Force it became apparent to me that 80% of what the reasonable people on each side of the argument were saying was the same. When my turn came to testify I said that we should embrace the common sense arguments and work together to find common ground.

The focus of any new legislation intended to reduce gun violence should be focused on preventing the wrong people from having weapons. This legislation should not attempt to control what type of weapons that law-abiding citizens may have.

There was a lot of sensible testimony given at the task force hearing. The victim of the Aurora shooting and one of the Sandy Hook parents both showed the way to sensible gun laws. They said that we should control who can have guns and not focus on the type of guns people can have.

The murders at Virginia Tech shows that when a person cannot have an AR-15, a 9mm pistol and a backpack filled with ten-round magazines will get the job done just fine.

In Tucson, we were lucky that the murderer was using an oversized 33-round magazine because if he were using a standard capacity 17-round magazine it would not have jammed allowing him to be subdued.

In Aurora the murderer had a stupid 100-round drum magazine on his AR-15. That piece of junk also jammed and he had to carry on with his shotgun, which probably reduced the body count.

Changing the current Assault Weapon Ban to include the thousands of AR pattern rifles that are currently legally owned and attempting to register or confiscate them is a misguided waste of resources that should be focused on problems much more important to the welfare of the state of Connecticut such as our current financial situation or addressing the decline in moral values that is at the root of the current outbreak of violence in our society.

Limiting the right of citizens to own standard capacity magazines or to try to confiscate the ones that are currently legally owned is wrong. Reducing the effectiveness of weapons used by citizens to defend themselves in a legal manner only puts their lives at risk. Requiring an ex post facto elimination of the large number of legally owned magazines is again a waste of resources and is completely unenforceable.

It is not right to force people like myself who have lived their entire life without so much as a parking ticket to suddenly have to choose between divesting private property that was obtained in good faith, being a criminal or moving out of the state.

I gave you the benefit of the doubt and hoped that we could come together to propose some common sense measures to make our state safer. However, the task force could not even release a joint proposal.

Not being satisfied with either of the proposals from the task force it seems that the Governor and the Democratic leadership is now making a push for a radical civilian disarmament agenda that goes far beyond what was proposed by their commission.

It is obvious that there is no interest in working together to take some common sense measures.

I have always been one of the apathetic voters who simply coasted along without much interest in local politics. If you sent a card in the mail and I happened to recognize your name on the ballot or if you had a "D" next to it I might as well vote for you instead of the next guy.

Having done nothing wrong and being on the receiving end of your efforts to impose your view of how things should be on me despite the fact that there is overwhelming opposition to what you want to do have forced me to realize after 56 years that "elections have consequences".

From now on, I and the many hundred like me, intend to be politically active. Not only will I pay attention when I vote, I will keep track of how you vote on every issue and I will research how you have acted in the past.

Not only will I vote, but I will volunteer as a campaign worker to support candidates that protect my interests and to oppose those who threaten my interests.

Not only will I volunteer, but starting in April I will make it a point to walk around and meet as many of my neighbors as I can. I will not be complaining about legislators who infringed on my rights. I will be asking them to become educated on all of the issues and to pay attention to the potential consequences of their aimless voting habits. I will be asking them to convince two other people to do the same and to ask those two people to convince two more.

You have seriously underestimated how many people are likely to wake up and start paying attention. Having a large number of new people active in the political process is a good thing.

There is still time for you to step up and do the right thing by putting a leash on those who are attempting to exploit the Newtown tragedy in order to push a radical gun control agenda that is only supported by a small minority of the population.

I will be seeing you in 2014. It can be working in your campaign headquarters or not. The choice is up to you.

Thank you for your attention.

Joseph Hriczo

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