

Hello,

Thank you for this opportunity to speak. My name is Karl Dale. I am a Trumbull resident, a lifelong resident of Connecticut, a father of 4 young children and a business owner. I am deeply saddened by the loss of innocent young lives in Sandy Hook recently. The answer to solving this lies in Mental Health Reform and keeping children away from Violent Video Games and Movies. I have been a Target Shooter and Hunter for about 30 years now, starting as a Boy Scout. I belong to several Gun Clubs, both in Connecticut and on a national level and shoot both recreationally and in competitions. My father, my children and I all enjoy target shooting together. For me shooting and owning guns is a family tradition. Not to say that I am a subject matter expert, but I am very familiar Connecticut Firearms Law and with firearms and use them regularly.

Today, my firearms freedoms and those of my family are under attack like never before. As a Connecticut and American Citizen I am guaranteed my birthright to own firearms, by both the United States and Connecticut's own Constitution. Our forefather's felt it so important of a basic human right, that they spelled it out in our constitution. They made it clear that I have the right to "keep and bear arms in defense of myself and the state"...and that "this right shall **NOT** be infringed". I think that pretty clearly spells it out. As citizens of the state we have a right to protect ourselves and our families from criminals who are intent on doing us grave bodily harm or worse and from tyrannical governments. I implore you to vote against restricting our rights any further than they have already been.

I want to express my opposition to Senate Bills No. 1076 *An act concerning the reduction of gun violence*, No. 505 *An act concerning the minimum age to purchase a rifle or other long guns* and No. 506 *an act requiring criminal background checks for all private firearms sales* as well as House Bill No. 6251 *An act requiring fingerprinting and criminal background checks prior to the sale, delivery or transfer of all long guns*. These bills all unacceptably further restrict law abiding citizens rights and will drive a future generation of shooters and hunters away from the sports due to vastly increased regulation. I also oppose any bills that ban commonly owned firearms, standard capacity magazines and mandate gun registration. Connecticut already has some of the strictest gun laws in the nation. The laws that currently exist are not enforced consistently and must be enforced to their fullest extent to be effective. We do not need any additional regulation.

Respectfully,

Karl Dale

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