

My name is Michael Marek, and I am a resident of Windsor Locks. I am a Veteran, a Firefighter, a law abiding citizen, and a proud firearms enthusiast. I would like to address the following bills:

- SB 1076 An Act concerning the reduction of gun violence-I OPPOSE this bill because it unnecessarily and unfairly redefines assault weapons. The changes are cosmetic and do not change the function of the gun. This will have no effect on criminal behavior. The bill would add new transfer requirements which would only affect law abiding citizens. It would require a permit to purchase ammunition, that is like requiring a permit to put gas in your car. It would create a permit to purchase a rifle with a \$140 fee. This is excessive and would burden low income citizens who want to exercise their 2nd Amendment rights. It also imposes a 1 gun per month limit. Criminals do not buy their guns in gun stores, they buy them on the street, so the only people this will burden are law abiding citizens. It would prohibit a dealer from shipping ammunition to an individual. This would inconvenience people who want to save money by ordering online. It would prohibit people from possessing body armor, unless they are police or in the armed forces. How would this reduce gun violence? If you know, please tell me. This bill would require gun registration yearly with an application, pictures, finger prints, and a fee for each firearm owned. This is redundant. Pistol permits cover this requirement. The registration cards would be stored and carried with the firearm. Registration would be expensive and would not reduce crime. Every country that has registered firearms, has eventually confiscated firearms. Please do not vote for SB 1076.
- SB 505 would raise the age to purchase a long gun to 21. I OPPOSE SB 505. What is the justification for this when we ask men and women who are 18 years old to go overseas, carry firearms and shoot people. Yet when they come home they are considered too immature to purchase a long gun. What facts show that this will reduce crime?
- SB 506 An act requiring criminal background checks for all private firearm sales. One part of this bill exempts transfers to some family members, but not all family members. For instance, it lists a spouse, or grandparent, but not a niece or nephew. I would recommend changing that.
- SB 1071 An act concerning additional funding for the criminal injuries compensation fund. I OPPOSE SB 1071. Under this bill firearms manufacturers and importers would have to pay a \$2500 fee as well as a bond, and a \$10 tax on each firearm they make or import. This penalizes innocent people not criminals.
- HB 6162 An act concerning ineligibility for a permit to carry a pistol or revolver or an eligibility certificate based on a prior hospitalization. I OPPOSE HB 6162. I ask you, what does a resident of a household being in a mental hospital have to do with a pistol permit fitness for renewal? The permit holder is always responsible for securing their firearms.
- HB 6251 An act requiring fingerprinting and criminal background checks prior to the sale, delivery or transfer of all long guns. I OPPOSE this bill because the seller must retain the application for sale for 20 years when the triplicate receipt is already sent to the Chief of Police and the State Police.
- HB 6595 An act prohibiting the discharge of firearms near private residences. This bill needs an exemption for someone justifiably acting in self defense from a lethal threat.
- HB 6598 An act concerning public protection. There are 2 areas of this bill I disagree with. It allows the agency that confiscated firearms from a person with disqualifiers to, "dispose of them in any manner it deems appropriate". This is, "putting the fox in charge of the henhouse". Every agency should follow the same procedures for equity. Another part of the bill allows a peace officer to possess a weapon on school grounds when off duty. Why is this necessary when permit holders do not enjoy the same freedom? When off duty, the officer has no responsibility to act when a crime is being committed.

I ask all of you to please do not give in to the hype of the media and start dismantling the Bill of Rights. Thank you.