

## Public Safety and Security Committee

Dear members of the Committee:

My name is Mike Leone and I am a business owner and professional from Southington. I'm the father of a 2nd and 4th grader, a Cub Scout leader, an Eagle Scout, a Church Trustee, an officer in a fish and game club, the past president of a non-profit organization and I serve on several other non-profit boards

I am here today to speak in opposition to: SB505, 897,1076,6251,6595.

Let me start with simple **personal economics**. I am a health insurance agent. I have hundreds of small business customers, most of them are reducing their work forces, many have shut their doors. Two of the manufactures that you have heard from during this debate, Ammunition Storage Components and Marsam Metal Finishing are my clients. They are among the very few small businesses that I deal with that are actually hiring and growing. These two companies produce thousands of dollars of revenue to me and my employees. The owner, Jon Scalise, should be applauded for investing his time and personal funds to create good manufacturing jobs here in New Britain CT. Instead you are fixing to deliver him a kick to the groin. With these proposals you will at the very least stop their growth, likely decrease their number of workers and possibly drive them right out of this State.

Now to the specifics in the bills:

**Registration-** I am concerned with the level of paperwork, permits, certificates and fees that these bills would require. Like many gun owners I own a lot of guns. For hunting I have one shot gun that I use for bird hunting, one for turkey hunting and a different one for deer hunting. I also have several rifles of various calibers for deer and big game hunting. I have four handguns for competition: two for practical shooting matches, one for steel plate matches, one for bulls eye target matches. I have three shotguns for skeet, trap and sporting clay shooting. I have several guns that my family shoots at the range, these are smaller rifles and shotguns that my wife and children can easily handle that use less expensive ammunition. I have several guns that my wife and I carry for protection. In addition to these I have guns that I have acquired from deceased friends and family that have significant sentimental value to me. When my wife asked me why I needed so many guns, I asked her why she needs so many pairs of shoes and so many hand bags. I ask people why they need so many golf clubs, fishing poles and tennis racquet's. This is my hobby.

Registering all these guns, each with separate photo ID's, finger prints, fees and certificates would be overwhelming and costly. Even at a \$25 per gun fee I am faced with well over \$700 a year in new costs. If each permit takes only 5 minutes to produce, I'll be standing at the Dept of Pubic Safety counter for two and a half hours. I will have to carry a briefcase will all of the required documentation, certificates and permits. I fear that I may not have the right piece of paper on hand when I'm required to "show my papers" to authorities.

**Magazine capacity limits-** Many of the proposed bills would require the confiscation of magazines that hold over 10 rounds. I estimate my value of these magazines to be well over \$1000. I would then have to purchase new 10 round magazines to replace the confiscated ones at an estimated cost of an additional \$1000. In America do we confiscate lawfully acquired private property without due process and compensation. If your goal is to reduce the firepower of gun owners, this law will have the exact opposite effect. On most days I carry a small caliber 9mm handgun that holds up to 15 rounds. I consider 9mm to be at the lower end of effective self defense ammunition, but with 15 rounds available it works. If I am limited to 10 rounds I will carry a .45 caliber handgun which is much more powerful and easier to conceal, I'll also likely throw a spare 10 round magazine in my pocket. I can change magazines in .8 seconds. Instead of limiting my firepower, you have caused it to increase to 20 rounds of a more powerful caliber

**Law enforcement exemption-** I am concerned that most of these bills exempt off duty law enforcement, military and government officials, in effect you are make me into a second class citizen, with fewer rights than government agents. I am at least as capable with a gun as the average policeman, former military or Dept of Corrections employee. Their families safety is important, but it is not as important to me as my families safety.

There is a term: "**punishment by process**" and that is exactly what you would be doing to me with all these complicated rules, permits and fees.

This legislature seems good at finding ways to reduce punishment of real criminals while finding new ways to punish me, I have a hard time accepting that. You come up with prison early release credits, abolish the death penalty, brag that you have reduced juvenile detentions by 50%, more than any State in the Country, but without reducing juvenile crime by 50%. Having gang bangers and juvenile delinquents on the streets really doesn't make me feel any safer.

Some of you have taken this tragedy and turned it into an opportunity to rehash tired old gun control measures that you have championed for your entire political career. These bills will be monumentally oppressive to me, but will do absolutely nothing to prevent the next Newtown or to reduce gun crime one bit.

Connecticut already has among the toughest gun control laws in the nation, when they couldn't prevent Newtown you call for more gun control. Every time your policies fail the solution is always to double down with more of the same. Maybe it's time to try something different?

Please think of me, not just Adam Lanza when you are considering these laws.

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