

all
bill #5

Over the summer I happened to catch Smokey and the Bandit on cable. It struck me as crazy seeing Bandit, Burt Reynolds, driving with no seatbelt and a beer in hand and literally drinking while driving. I'm sure back in 1977 when the film was released no one thought much about seeing this since DUI laws were not strongly enforced. But in the years since, laws and penalties became stricter. I'm sure during this time there were people who opposed a crack down on drinking and driving. I'm sure even today some people probably believe that they can drive safely after while throwing back a couple beers. But pressure from groups like Mothers against Drunk Driving resulted in a zero tolerance law in the 90s. The results have been exceptional. Alcohol impaired driving deaths decreased 48.5% from 26,000 in 1982 to 13,500 in 2006.

So how is this relevant here today? I was horrified on December 14th along with the entire world. My best friend lives in Newtown. She called me while she was at the school waiting for her daughter to be released from lockdown and I heard her fear, her horror, her relief, her disbelief, her concern for the children that her daughter knew. I found out days later that another friend from high school lost her child that day and I was completely heartbroken for her loss. Our kids are the same age. She is a wonderful person and it's not fair that her son was taken. I assumed stricter gun laws would be a no-brainer. But today I stand here horrified at the resistance of enacting measures to prevent future gun violence.

I am here to ask you to vote in favor of comprehensive gun violence prevention legislation.

- Enact background checks for all gun sales,
- Gun registration with annual renewal including updated background check
- Ban on assault style weapons
- Ban on large capacity magazines
- Safe storage laws for all
- Permit to purchase all guns and ammunition.

1 gun per month limit

I need a permit and pay a fee to put a shed in my backyard. I need to register my car, buy insurance and have a valid driver's license to drive it. But I can buy a gun, assault style weapon or ammo the same way I can buy a piece of jewelry or a cup of coffee. There's something very wrong with that.

We need to take every precaution to ensure that guns don't get in the wrong hands. The only way to do this is to approve every proposal being presented for comprehensive gun prevention legislation. I ask that you support stricter gun laws. Thank you for time.

Jan Pierret

Darien, CT

P.S. I believe the permit should not only include x hours of gun training but a psychiatric evaluation as well. I believe that every person that has shot another person or themselves is a mentally unstable person.