

Christopher M. Chmura RN
65 Raynor Street
Southington, CT 06489
(203) 913-9283

Friday March 8, 2013

To members of the Public Safety Committee,

Hello elected officials. I am writing this letter to express my concerns about the legislation being pushed forward for your review. As a Registered Nurse and a gun owner I would like to express my opposition to the proposed bill, SB 1076. The definition of an "assault weapon" inhibits law abiding citizens the right to possess a firearm to protect themselves and their family. In addition I believe that this will make it difficult for individuals to enjoy the sport of shooting.

I have never broken a law regarding safe handling, storage, or use of any firearm I have ever come in contact with. I feel that as a state and nation we need to be educated on exactly what different types of firearms are; i.e. semi-automatic vs. automatic, instead of labeling them as an "assault weapon". This implies that these firearms are being used to "assault" when they may be used to protect one's home or for recreational use.

As a Nurse and an educator I am teaching patients and families on a daily basis about their health. I believe we should be educating the public about guns, their use, and safety, versus trying to eliminate their legal use.

I currently recreationally shoot skeet at a gun club. I enjoy this sport as much as I do any other outdoor sport, such as golf, road cycling, and hiking. I feel that it is my right to take part in this sport and many of the legislative efforts are aimed at making it more difficult for me and others to do that.

Let's focus our energies on making a real difference. People need knowledge about guns. There are other ways to ensure the public's safety related to guns instead of eliciting fear about them. Increase the police's power to arrest those illegally possessing and selling fire arms. Also ensure that prosecutors can try and convict those violating our laws. I believe that our state of Connecticut already has strict gun control and is seen as a model for other states. What I do ask is that you do not restrict my or anyone else's rights to protect our homes and families.

Feel free to contact me at any time, thank you for your time and efforts



Christopher M. Chmura RN-BSN, EMT-B