

My name is David Adametz, and I thank you for allowing me to speak today.

In 1990 I had purchased a Colt AR-15, which is legally registered under the terms of the 1994 assault weapons law. I purchased this rifle because it is a pleasant sporting rifle to shoot and it was excellent for protecting our farm's livestock against predators. In 1994, in response to the Assault Weapon law, I registered my rifle with the Department of Public Safety in good faith. I use the term "good faith" because at the time, I was promised it was a common sense law that was necessary for public safety, so in good faith I accepted this explanation. I am now here to ask you- has this legislature lied to us?

I ask this because in 1994 it was pointed out the bill was flawed because the term "assault weapon" was simply slang that described the way a firearm looked. Now, almost twenty years later, what we were told was a common sense law back in 1994 is now, in Governor Malloy's own words, so full of loopholes you can drive a truck through. In 1994 it was pointed out the bill would do absolutely nothing to stop crime because criminals will still steal their guns no matter what gun laws there are. Now, twenty years later, despite this assault weapon law, a criminal still stole his mother's lawfully owned rifle and used it to murder the children at Newtown. By the very fact we are meeting here today, you are admitting the 1994 law did absolutely nothing to stop violence, and yet in spite of this, this legislature is now proposing bill 1076, which has the exact same flaws and loopholes that made the first law a failure.

I as well as every other gun owner here support the need to stop senseless violence as much as you do. However, all we are receiving for our good faith in your leadership is demands that law abiding citizens be held accountable as criminals. When we see section 32 of this bill that requires every resident to register every firearm from duck hunting shotguns to even the World War II Lugers their grandfathers brought back from Europe, we have to ask- can this legislature point out even one case where someone used a duck hunting shotgun, or a World War II Luger, to commit a school shooting? My rifle was registered under the 1994 law without becoming any more of a threat to society than the day I bought it, and now you are telling me I need to reregister it every year from now on because being registered just isn't registered enough. Let's face facts, here. This has nothing to do with reducing violence. This has everything to do with harassing law abiding gun owners and making it increasingly prohibitive to possess a gun with no benefit for public safety whatsoever. You are essentially trying to stop the fox from stealing the chickens by beating the family dog. Is this really what our legislature wants us to think of their leadership?

I understand the people who oppose or support this bill have already made up their minds at this point so I know my words are moot. Nonetheless, I ask this legislature to withdraw Bill 1076 for the folly the last twenty years have proven it to be. As your constituents, we are hoping that we can regain our good faith in your leadership and be able to tell you, "job well done". We do NOT want to come back in yet another public hearing twenty years from now and tell you "we told you so".

Thank you.