

I think we are really regulating firearms with disproportionate laxity. As I look at all the things I need to get a license to use, and the public safety impact of those, firearms are an outlier.

I have a dog. I am required to obtain a license in our town, and present evidence that a rabies vaccine has been administered.

I have a car, well two. I need to register that car with the state annually. I need to take the car to a state licensed inspection station and have it pass an emissions test.

I drive cars. I need a license, and I need to pass a test that I know how to operate it. I need to have an eye exam to determine whether or not I am required to wear glasses.

I am a private pilot. Every two years I need to have a medical exam by an FAA certified physician. Every two years I need to pass a review by a flight instructor. And this is just to fly a single engine, four seat aircraft.

The electricians, plumbers, mechanics, and other trades I use all need to be licensed.

My barber needs a license.

The restaurants and delis I use have to pass health inspections.

I need a license to fish. Even now a license to fish on the beach.

Truck drivers need a special license to operate.

This is all mostly good stuff. It keeps us safe.

In my youth I owned three guns for hunting and target practice. I didn't know anyone who had a semi-automatic gun. They were useless, since you couldn't use them to hunt.

In my opinion, we just shouldn't allow anyone outside of law enforcement to have a semi-automatic weapon, period. But if we are we should at least bring the licensing requirements into line with things like dogs, cars, planes, barbers, truck drivers, and restaurants.

We have ample evidence for the improvement in public safety from regulation of potentially dangerous activities. Possession of semi-automatic weapons should be treated as such.

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