

Dear Sirs:

The most recent Quinnipiac Poll* shows an overwhelming majority of Connecticut voters want strong gun laws including an expansion of the statewide ban on the sale of assault weapons, ban on the sale of large capacity magazines, registration of handguns, permits for handgun purchase and possession, and limits on gun purchases that can be made in a month.

As a responsible citizen of the State of Connecticut and in response to the mass shootings in Columbine, Virginia Tech, Tuscon, Aurora, and the tragic loss of 26 innocent lives three months ago in Newtown, Ct I stand for the following gun safety proposals to be passed without delay by the Ct legislature, and to be signed into law by The Governor.

1. A ban on future sales of military assault weapons that are listed by model names or, if not listed , are semiautomatic weapons capable of accepting detachable magazines and have military features. Individuals currently in possession of banned weapons will be required to register them by Oct. 1, 2013. Future sales and purchases will be outlawed. Exemptions are proposed for law enforcement officers, corrections officials and military and naval personnel discharging their duties.

2. A ban on the sale and possession of large capacity magazines capable of holding more than ten rounds. Individuals in possession of magazines with a greater than ten round capacity should have until Oct. 1st, 2013 to sell out of state, turn over to law enforcement, or permanently modify to no longer be capable of holding more than ten rounds.

3. Expand safe storage laws that would be stricter than the current law that only calls for strict liability if owners are negligent in prohibiting access to firearms for minors under 16 years of age. Existing statute should also be amended to encompass all individuals who are ineligible to own a firearm.

4. Require universal background checks on all sales of and transfers of all guns, including but not limited to handguns and long guns.

5. Require registration of all handguns with annual renewal, including updated background checks: stipulation that all handguns are still in the possession of the original purchaser or transferee: explanation for any handgun not in possession and fine for such. Fees changed for initial registration and renewal.

6. Require a permit to purchase and carry all guns, including long guns, and to purchase ammunition.

7. Limit handgun sales to one/month

Let us Act Now to reduce the chances of another tragedy like Sandy Hook. Nothing will remove all violence from our communities. However, we must try... we must try... we must try to impose common sense legislation in order to make our state a safer place to raise children, conduct business, and enjoy a sense of community and pride.

* <http://www.quinnipiac.edu/institutes-centers/polling-institute/connecticut/release-detail?ReleaseID=1864>

*Thank You , Warren Saltzman
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