

Senators and Representatives,

Thank you for taking the time for this hearing today.

After the tragedy in Newtown, the people in Connecticut and across America have cried out for action to prevent these types of tragedies from happening again. In response, this committee has made a few suggestions which are open for discussion today.

Unfortunately, I find that most of these bills are the wrong approach, but for the sake of time, I will limit my comments to three bills.

The first bill that I'd like to address is Senate Bill 1076 AN ACT CONCERNING THE REDUCTION OF GUN VIOLENCE

This bill is a conglomeration of several ideas that attempt to restrict civilian ownership of military style weapons, and substantially increase the burden in order to possess any type of firearm. To do this, this bill bans most firearms with military features, requires a tedious and costly permit process for possession of any firearm, and implements a registration which adds even more financial burden. I'm not a lawyer, but the way I read the Supreme Court Case, United States vs. Miller, it is pretty clear that the Second Amendment specifically applies to weapons associated with the military. This bill tries to forbid exactly the kind of weapons protected by the US Constitution. This bill also adds an excessive financial burden upon the exercise of a constitutionally protected right.

Article First, Section 15 of the Constitution of the State of Connecticut, reads "Every citizen has a right to bear arms in defense of himself and the state." I don't believe that right should require an annual fee to do so. Quite frankly I think this bill shows a complete disregard for the governmental system.

The next bill I would like to discuss is House Bill 6162, AN ACT CONCERNING INELIGIBILITY FOR A PERMIT TO CARRY A PISTOL OR REVOLVER OR AN ELIGIBILITY CERTIFICATE BASED ON A PRIOR HOSPITALIZATION. Essentially this bill increases the mental health 'look-back' period for permits and eligibility certificates, which seems like a great idea. My objection is the elimination of the requirement that a probate court has to order the hospitalization for it to disqualify a person for a permit. The problem is that this is a disincentive to seek treatment, as simply checking oneself into psychiatric care will instantly restrict ones rights. I think the outcome of this bill will be detrimental to the overall mental health in the State of Connecticut. It almost feels as if this bill was rushed before all the consequences were evaluated.

For the sake of time, I would briefly like to state my opposition to all of the other bills on today's agenda, except for Senate Bill 299 AN ACT CONCERNING COMMUNICATION AMONG STATE AND LOCAL POLICE DEPARTMENTS DURING ACTIVE SHOOTER INCIDENTS. I believe this bill is beneficial and should be presented to the legislature.

Thank you for your time and for listening to my opinion.

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