

My name is Mike Sakowski and I am from Unionville, CT. I'd like to start by thanking you for allowing me to speak today. I have a few issues with some of the proposed bills being heard. Bill number 505 will change the age from 18 to 21 to buy a rifle. I'd like to know, exactly how this is supposed to stop gun violence? Are all criminals under 21, and follow the current 18 year old law? How can you become an adult at 18 and not buy a means to protect yourself and future family? A responsible 18 year old adult is more than qualified to possess firearms, and it is in their constitutional right. The men and women in the military can volunteering enlist *under* the age of 18. They are trained and given a weapon to fight the enemy of this great nation. I was deployed in 2011 to Afghanistan, and I can first handedly tell you that I was so incredibly lucky to have so many 18 and 19 year olds with their rifle. Every one of them including myself had every right to have that means of defense, just as we are now. How can a person come back from war and then have their very right that they fought for stripped away by their own government?

This law will not stop gun violence, it will only make Connecticut's youth even more vulnerable. The Act putting a ten round max on magazines does just the same. The Norwich Police officers who fired 41 bullets with only 6 hits, resulting in a 15% accuracy rate proves this true. Trained professionals firing at 15% accuracy, but it's the civilian gun owners who need less rounds? It is obscene for the government to tell the people what THEY need to defend themselves.

The more laws passed towards banning or restricting firearms only creates more freedom for the criminals. By restricting our right to defend, they are enabling a criminal's right to take advantage. Attached is an article about an update of the gun situation in Australia. Australia totally banned all personal firearms and destroyed all that were collected. This cost the government over 500 million dollars. A year later, the results are in: since the ban, assaults are up 9.6%. Armed robbery is up 44%, but the most alarming one is homicides with firearms, up 300% in the state of Victoria alone. Criminals are in heaven knowing all their prey is disarmed. I find it hard to believe that such a large group of educated people such as yourselves do not see this.

All that these laws will do is strip legal gun owners of their constitutional right to bear arms. Banning AR's will not stop gun violence. In fact, according to a FBI survey, the total number of murders in Connecticut from 2004-2011 was 850. Only 2 of those were from a rifle. That's less than .5%. What violence are these proposed bills supposed to stop? 45 people were murdered with bare hands. That's over 22 times more than killed with a rifle. The ignorance in thinking these new bills will stop violence is ridiculous.

When a drunk driver gets into an accident, the driver is held responsible and not the car. Why in this case is the *gun* responsible for what the *owner* does with it? Sick people do sick things, as history has repeated time and time again. Stop punishing the responsible owners. For every DUI accident, we don't see a huge attempted ban on cars. It is the person, not the tool. Enforce the laws already in place, hold the person not the gun responsible, and please stop infringing on my constitutional rights.

Thank you for your time,

Mike Sakowski

Australian Gun Law Update

Submitted by legalizeliberty on Fri, 01/04/2013 - 13:49

2nd Amendment

From: Ed Chenel, A police officer in Australia

Hi all, I thought you all would like to see the real figures from Down Under.

It has now been 12 months since gun owners in Australia were forced by a new law to surrender 640,381 personal firearms to be destroyed by our own government, a program costing Australia taxpayers more than \$500 million dollars.

The first year results are now in:

Australia-wide, homicides are up 6.2 percent,
Australia-wide, assaults are up 9.6 percent;
Australia-wide, armed robberies are up 44 percent (yes, 44 percent)!

In the state of Victoria alone, homicides with firearms are now up 300 percent. (Note that while the law-abiding citizens turned them in, the criminals did not, so the criminals still possess their guns!)

While figures over the previous 25 years showed a steady decrease in armed robbery with firearms, this has changed drastically upward in the past 12 months, since the criminals now are guaranteed that their prey is unarmed.

There has also been a dramatic increase in break-ins and assaults of the elderly, while the resident is at home.

Australian politicians are at a loss to explain how public safety has decreased, after such monumental effort and expense was expended in 'successfully ridding Australian society of guns....' You won't see this on the American evening news or hear your governor or members of the State Assembly disseminating this information.

The Australian experience speaks for itself. Guns in the hands of honest citizens save lives and property and, yes, gun-control laws affect only the law-abiding citizens.

Take note Americans, before it's too late!

Similar Subjects

United States FBI Murder and Weapon Data, UCR Report, Table 20 - Connecticut

1/26/2013

Connecticut	Murder	Firearms	Handguns	Rifles	Shotguns	Firearms (unknown) instruments		Knives or cutting instruments	Other Hands, fists, feet, etc. 2
						Firearms	Knives or cutting instruments		
2004	86	47	39	0	2	6	16	18	5
2005	91	47	27	0	2	18	14	20	10
2006	100	65	57	0	2	6	18	12	5
2007	95	57	37	0	4	16	14	20	4
2008	112	71	46	1	0	24	27	11	3
2009	107	70	51	0	2	17	17	14	6
2010	131	97	72	0	1	24	20	8	6
2011	128	94	54	1	1	38	18	10	6
	850	548	383	2	14	149	144	113	45
		64%	45%	0%	2%	18%	17%	13%	5%

1 Total number of murders for which supplemental homicide data were received.

2 Pushed is included in hands, fists, feet, etc.

FBI UCR reports table 20

Note: Does not include 2012 data, which has not yet been compiled by the FBI.