

Dear Sir or Madam,

I strongly oppose SB 1076. I take particular exception to Section 32. It is a mandatory registration of ALL firearms, no matter what their type. It could be a .22 rifle, a shotgun and everything else. The penalty for failure to register will be a Class D Felony. The requirement to register each firearm with a background check for an as yet unknown fee is burdensome and unfairly punishes those with lower incomes.

The registration process will also be an additional economic burden for Connecticut, which we do not need at this time. Where will the state obtain funds to enforce registration and background checks? The DPS was overwhelmed with over 29,000 background checks in December and 31,800 in January. They had to shorten their business hours due to the lack of staff. There are an estimated 180,000 pistol permit holders in Connecticut and an estimated 2,000,000+ firearms legally owned in Connecticut. How can it be possible to register every gun by the deadline? It should also be noted that all firearms purchases through a dealer in Connecticut is already on file via the DPS-3 form. Another point to consider is the toll that inevitable lawsuits will cost the state of Connecticut. All one has to do is look at what is happening in New York.

Why are law abiding citizens being punished for the act of a criminal? Why are existing laws not enforced? The following information is found in Office of Legislative Research report No. 2007-R-0442, "Case Statistics for Firearm Violations for the years 2001-2007."

- Carrying pistol without a permit: 58 percent of the people arrested were not prosecuted on the gun charge.
- Illegal possession of assault weapon: 47 percent of the people arrested were not prosecuted on the gun charge.
- Use of a firearm to commit a Class A, B or C felony: 72 percent of the people arrested were not prosecuted on the gun charge. Stealing a firearm: 73 percent of the people arrested were not prosecuted on the gun charge.
- Possession firearm or deadly weapon on school grounds: 83 percent of the people arrested were not prosecuted on the gun charge. Criminal possession of pistol or revolver: 55 percent of the people arrested were not prosecuted on the gun charge.
- In total, 26,725 people were arrested for firearms violations between 2001 and 2007, and 71 percent were not prosecuted on the gun charges.

A recent example of this happened in Connecticut. Jordan Marsh, 26, pleaded guilty May 10 to a single count of stealing a firearm and received a suspended prison sentence and two years of probation. He initially faced 12 counts of stealing a firearm and other larceny charges. He then went back to the same store and stole additional firearms while on probation. How can anyone steal over a dozen firearms and receive a slap on the wrist?

Connecticut already has one of the most restrictive assault weapons bans in the United States. Any additional legislation will have an effect on Connecticut manufacturers such as Stag Arms, Colt and Ruger. I find it extremely hypocritical that Governor Malloy would continue to allow these manufacturers to continue to create "assault weapons" for sale outside of Connecticut. It also speaks volumes about how he perceives Connecticut residents, whom he sees as too ignorant or untrustworthy to own these types of firearms.

In closing, I am VERY disappointed the Connecticut legislature and Governor Malloy for exploiting the Sandy Hook tragedy to further their anti civil rights agenda. This knee jerk legislation needs to stop. If the Connecticut legislature and Governor Malloy were truly interested in making Connecticut safer, they would at least have the decency to wait until the official police report is released in June. The Connecticut citizens deserve to know the details surrounding the events at Newtown and deserve to have laws that will actually prevent another tragedy.

I have now become a single issue voter and I have convinced many others in my community to become the same.

Sincerely,
D. Vong