

Ladies and Gentlemen of the Public Safety and Security Committee:

I am asking that you oppose SB 1076 and HB 6251. These bills are outrageously draconian and discriminatory, and clearly will do nothing to stop crime. It will not stand up to the constitutional challenge that will certainly follow. Many existing laws may be struck down as a result.

According to the FBI statistics, in the year 2011, the last year that statistics are available, there were 128 murders in CT. 1 (One) was with any type of rifle or shotgun. 125 of the murders were in Bridgeport, New Haven, and Hartford; areas of known drug and gang activity.

I conducted a search of the CT statutes for laws containing guns, weapons, rifles, pistols, and firearms. There are a total of 1,114 gun laws already in existence in CT. I believe that there are already enough gun laws that cover any possible circumstance. Attacking the rights of law-abiding gun owners will do nothing to stop crime.

Referring to the aforementioned FBI statistics, one can see that the true causes of crime go beyond a "quick fix" of passing draconian gun laws. "Common sense" laws would approach the causes of gangs and drug use, and mental health. Young people need direction and focus, someone to reach out to them. It has become a popular part of inner city culture to be related to gangs and drugs. They don't fear sentencing because their mindset is that they will never be caught. They are rebels, standing up against society, But if they have a focus from an early age, something that promises a bigger reward and acceptance, something that allows them to be themselves, they don't need gangs. This is where the murders happen in CT. These are the real "common sense" problems to be dealt with.

The economic repercussions of these oppressive firearms laws will be staggering. It has always been a gauge of a law, that if an honest, law abiding citizen does nothing and the law makes him a criminal, then it is a bad law. Please don't pass these bad laws.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Dale Bennett

Haddam, CT