

To the members of the committee;

I would like to thank the General Assembly as a whole for the opportunity to express my opinions on this important subject. When considering legislation that will affect the whole population of a state, it is important to consider proposals carefully in order to produce a law that actually makes sense and addresses the issues, rather than some hysterical nonsense that looks and sounds good but doesn't actually make a difference.

We are all here today because of the terrible events that took place three months ago at the Sandy Hook School. This tragedy needs to be addressed and every effort should be made to see to it that nothing similar ever happens again in Connecticut. Unfortunately, the major proposals being advanced by many people both in the General Assembly and without are measures that would, at best, inconvenience another would-be mass murderer, not stop him.

Proposals to ban certain types of firearms or limit the capacity of magazines would only slow down the rate that people get slaughtered, not prevent it. Forcing a monster to change magazines more often as he shoots innocents is hardly a accomplishment I would brag about, nor is crowing about how his rifle didn't have a flash hider on it while he was committing his monstrous deeds.

Is this really the best the General Assembly can produce? A possible reduction in the body count? If someone truly has evil in their hearts and wants to take action on their murderous impulses, is it enough to make them take a bus trip to another state to buy larger magazines? Is it sufficient to make them get a permit or pay a fee before killing? Concentrating on the instrumentality of their crimes while ignoring the cause of them is an exercise in futility of the first order. Shame on anyone who would consent to this in the name of political expediency.

The root cause of tragedies like the Newtown shootings is insanity. Not the existence of magazines that hold 11 cartridges or rifles that have adjustable butt stocks on them, but the kind of mental state that would send a young man into a school full of innocent children and deliberately, methodically commit mass murder. This is an act so horrific that it numbs the soul, yet the person who committed this act was allowed to fester in his madness unmolested until he finally broke out in bloody action.

Inevitably, whenever this happens we hear over and over that it was common knowledge that there was something seriously wrong with the murderer, yet nothing was done because they hadn't actually harmed anyone yet. WHY? Why does someone exhibiting serious signs of mental instability roam free until they finally give us overwhelming evidence of their madness? We used to put people with serious mental problems in facilities where they would be medicated and cared for. Yes, there were problems with these facilities, but instead of fixing the

problems, we tore them down and turned the occupants loose into our communities with a fistful of drugs and an admonition to take them on schedule.

I respectfully submit that it's time and past time to reexamine our tolerance for madness within our community. We waste our time debating whether magazines holding ten rounds are suitable for general use rather than ones holding fifteen rounds while the only people who would wreak havoc with either are allowed to live among us like ticking time bombs. Ban all firearms, all magazines, and all ammunition, and the next school will be attacked with gasoline bombs or improvised explosives. What then?

Ban the ones who would harm our innocents, instead.

Respectfully,

Gary Lenk

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