

Members of the committee, my name is Gregg Karal. I am a Plainville resident, a small business owner, the father of two teenage honor student boys, a Boy Scout Leader, and a concerned citizen who votes. I am not the fringe of the fringe.

I am here today to ask that you do not support any of the new gun legislation being proposed. Let's look at what we have common ground on. These proposed laws will do nothing to stop the next Adam Lanza from fulfilling his sick fantasy and looking for his 15 minutes of fame. There aren't any provisions of the proposed legislation that deal specifically with holding criminals accountable. There aren't any provisions addressed in this legislation that will force the criminal to comply. Restricting me will do neither. Currently only about 10% of all gun violations are prosecuted. If you wish to make our children safer, why not abolish all plea bargains when it comes to gun violations and stiffen the penalties or prison sentences. The State of Florida has gun crime laws that seem to be effective. In Florida, if you use a gun in the commission of a crime, there is a mandatory minimum jail sentence, which cannot be pled down to a lesser crime, and reduce the penalty. This could be a factor as to why the crime rate in Florida is far less than the national average.

Next, since most of these mass shootings are done by crazed individuals who most likely are looking for their 15 min of fame, let's take those 15 minutes away from them. Pass a bill that would fine any media outlet (radio, TV or newsprint) from publicizing the name of the perpetrator.

These would be reasonable approaches to ensuring that our children would be safer. There are very few instances where a law abiding citizen has committed violent acts using guns. And if they do, they deserve every penalty thrown at them.

Next, I would like to share with you how some of these new proposals will affect me personally. First, I provide insurance and investment planning for many small companies here in CT that either directly or indirectly provide for the firearms industry. If this bill passes, and these companies do indeed leave the state as many promised they would, this will directly affect my income. I am also deeply concerned with SB 1076 which would call for me to register each of my guns at an amount to be determined later. This bill would require me to register all my guns within 90 days or face becoming a criminal. With times being as tough as they are, extra money is not something that we have plenty of. That is one of the primary reasons I hunt and have taught my 2 children to hunt. Hunting provides us a way to reduce our food costs. This bill could end up costing me hundreds of dollars each year, which I cannot afford, especially in this lackluster economy. If I fail to register my guns or sell them within the 90 days called for within the bill, I will become a criminal. If I do decide to sell my guns after that 90 day period, I could then be arrested for trafficking unregistered guns. The reason why I have several guns is for different purposes, mostly for hunting with my two boys. I have 3 shotguns I use for Turkey hunting, I have 3 rifles I use for deer hunting on private land, 3 more shotguns for deer hunting on state land, 3 rifles for target practice so that me and my boys will be proficient shots. I also have a handgun that I use for personal protection. Even more disturbing is that if this bill becomes law, my sons will become criminals. The bill dictates that you cannot carry an unregistered gun. Once my boys are 16 years old they are allowed to hunt by themselves, but they cannot register a gun in their name until they are 21. So by allowing my boys to hunt by themselves, in effect, they are breaking the law.

Please think of me as you decide about the practicality of these new bills before you cast your vote. The defeat of this bill is so important to me that if you do vote in favor of it, I will do everything in my ability to see that you are voted out of office in the next election.

Thank You,

Gregg Karal
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