

To the Honorable CT Senators & Representatives:

As Connecticut and the nation move forward and try to understand the absolute senselessness of the Newtown tragedy, we must set aside the emotion and look to make changes based on logic and facts. The first and foremost question to be asked is what is wrong with the people of this country that would drive anyone to such unimaginable actions. After the Newtown tragedy, there has been many copy cat statements that have been made as the news media continues to sensationalize every aspect of the event.

I, as well as hundreds of other attended the gun hearing at the capital in January. After sitting for hours listening to the people speak, it was readily apparent that the vast majority of people in attendance do not support any new gun laws. Most of these gun rights advocates spoke with fact, citing several statistics. The people that spoke for the so-called 'sensible' gun restrictions did so with emotion as their defense. Not one person in those hearings wasn't torn apart by what that abomination of a person did in Newtown. I too have children. But when all the dust settles, that person broke a least a dozen laws that were already in place. The law abiding gun owner did not commit these crimes.

After the hearings and the thousands of letters that have been sent to the Connecticut legislature, it appears that everything is falling on deaf ears. The proposed house and senate bills do nothing to stop crime. They do nothing to stop a deranged person from committing any type of mass casualty crime. What these bills do is turn the current law abiding gun owners into criminals. They prevent the law abiding gun owner from purchasing what was perfectly legal. They force the law abiding gun owner into a state of government control in the form of registration, which will lead to confiscation as soon as the next emotional round of legislation is enacted.

The so-called assault type rifles continue to be the focal point. People that do not understand the firearm respond with ridiculous comments such as 'who needs a 30 round magazine to hunt deer' or 'these guns have no purpose other than creating mass casualties.' First and foremost, owning this type of firearm or any type of firearm has nothing to do with hunting. Owning any firearm is a constitutionally guaranteed right if you are a law abiding citizen. It is the law abiding citizen's right to choose the type, style, etc of firearm to be used for whatever legal means they choose. Those legal means include collecting, target shooting, self defense, and hunting. I very much enjoyed listening to one of the citizens at the January hearing that has worked for the Bridgeport CT crime lab for decades.

As everyone knows, Bridgeport is one of our cities plagued with violence. As this articulate gentleman pointed out, using fact and statistics, so-called assault style firearms accounted for two firearms recovered in crimes. As he pointed out, neither of the crimes resulted in a death. So what does that say? It says that any and all of these laws will have no impact on crime, but will impact the law abiding gun owner. The

Department of Justice findings on the federal 1994 assault weapons ban yielded no change in crime, especially in relation to the firearms the law banned.

So what are these so-called assault style firearms used for? They are used in predator hunting, such as coyotes. They are used in both formal and informal target competitions. They are used at the National Matches held at Camp Perry in Ohio. They are collected. And lastly, they are used for home defense. They make excellent home defense firearms. If they did not, the Police would not deploy them inside of homes in the commission of their duties.

I implore the entire legislative body to reject all of these proposed bills that take away any and all rights of the law abiding gun owner as well as any further gun restrictions or bans. Enough is enough. CT already has some of the toughest gun laws on the books. CT already has an assault weapons ban on the books. The legislative body needs to address how and why our society has fallen apart to the point that people just don't seem to care about people anymore. Human life needs to be respected again. It's not the guns or the law abiding gun owners that are the problem. They have never been the problem. For that matter, in decades gone by, many schools had their own shooting teams on the premises. In decades gone by, kids use to bring guns to school for these shooting teams or to go hunting after school. Why weren't there shootings back then? The reason is simple. People use to respect and cherish life.

As we know, we need to keep guns out of the hands of people that are criminals or mentally unstable. I would ask that the legislative body support the universal instant background check for all gun purchases, public or private. This tool allows any seller to know that the buyer can legally purchase the firearm. This tool does not infringe on the rights of a law abiding gun owner. This tool does not limit what a law abiding gun owner can purchase. This tool does provide the security to know that the buyer has a legal right to own the firearm looking to be purchased.

Thank you for your time.

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