

Members of the Public Safety and Security Committee,

The persons responsible for the Sandyhook tragedy are DEAD. THEY cannot be punished. Don't turn your attack on Connecticut gun owners because you think SOMEONE has to pay.

That said, I would like to express my sincere and strong opposition to the many new proposals for gun control laws that have been proffered as a solution to gun violence. Connecticut has sufficient enforced gun laws already on the books. It is not the law-abiding gun owners of Connecticut who are the problem. It is the mentally unstable and those *who do not chose to obey the laws*, who will continue to find ways to procure firearms (whatever type they desire), *regardless of what laws are passed*. Take away the guns from the law-abiding people and only the criminals will have guns.

What substance is in these proposals that will truly prevent future violence? This is an attack on CT gun owners to punish them with unreasonable and unfair legislation that will do nothing to stop any psychotic killer from getting a weapon and using it to wreak havoc on innocent people. This legislation will also hurt the gun manufacturers who employ Connecticut citizens. Keep that in consideration too.

I especially do not support the Governor's proposal issued on February 21. There **MUST** be public hearings on such hotly contested issues where legislators are so clearly divided. Government is supposed to be "of the people, for the people, by the people". Listen to the people. BOTH sides.

I specifically oppose arbitrary magazine limits, bans on firearms based on characteristics that make them **look** like assault weapons, additional taxes and restrictions on ammunition, registration and permit requirements, mandatory storage laws and mandatory liability insurance. **None** of these will stop someone who is bound and determined to create another Sandyhook incident from doing so.

I have not seen anything that would stop criminals from committing future acts of violence. What I have seen, is a lot of legislation specifically designed to unjustly tax, hassle, intimidate, inconvenience, and disarm the law-abiding, gun owning citizens of Connecticut. This is not reasonable. It is not productive. It is not acceptable! I *highly* take offense to possibly being made a felon without reasonable and just cause. or on someone's whim. This is what reactionary legislation does. It harms rather than helps.

Furthermore, I will not support any candidate (for any office), financially or at the polls, who votes for such gun control laws. In 1994 those in U.S. Congress who voted in favor of the "Assault Weapons Ban", and sweeping gun control laws were voted out of office. I will put my full support behind other candidates to ensure that gun control supporters will be voted out of office in the next election cycle.

Please consider your oath to uphold our State Constitution.

Preamble to The CT State Constitution:

"The People of Connecticut acknowledging with gratitude, the good providence of God, in having permitted them to enjoy a free government; do, in order more effectually to define, secure, and perpetuate the liberties, rights and privileges which they have derived from their ancestors; hereby, after a careful consideration and revision, ordain and establish the following constitution and form of civil government."

<http://www.cslib.org/constitution/amends/constitution.htm>

Article 1st, Section 15 - "Every citizen has a right to bear arms in defense of himself and the state."

Respectfully,  
Lisa Hourigan

Meriden, CT