

I own one rifle – a single shot .22 rimfire that I use for the occasional rabbit that has taken up residence inside the fence line of my garden, or the living and very angry woodchuck my Dalmatian Jake would catch, holding the woodchuck's back in his mouth, and present to me (claws flailing and teeth gnashing) at my front door.

This rifle was given to me when I was eighteen by a family friend – Mrs. Johnson had known my mother for over 50 years, and while preparing to move to Florida asked my mother first for her permission and whether I would like it. It was originally purchased for Mrs. Johnson's then 12 year old son, making it over twenty years older than I am.

Over the 24 years I've owned it, I've spent under \$100 for its care and use – 22 ammunition is cheap for target practice, and most of what I spent was gun lock and replacement sling. Less than five bucks a year.

Yet I see many bills that say I should be required to be finger printed, to get a permit, to register this gun, to pay annual fees, to insure it, that Mrs. Johnson should've been forced to bring it to a gun store two decades ago and paid to substitute a bureaucratic computer check on an 18 year old for the judgment of the kid's own mother. And if I don't, or future people in the same situation don't, they're criminals.

This is not right, and it is not just.

And it serves no public purpose.

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