

March 14, 2013

State of Connecticut - General Assembly - Raised Bill No. 1076

Referred to Committee on PUBLIC SAFETY AND SECURITY

AN ACT CONCERNING THE REDUCTION OF GUN VIOLENCE

I come before you today in opposition to the proposed bill S.B. 1076.

First of all, thank you for the time and attention you and your staff have given to the gun debate over the past several weeks. Emotions have run high from all avenues and my opposition to S.B. 1076 certainly does not, nor is it intended to, diminish opinions of those who lost their loved ones at Sandy Hook. I am confident there has been much pressure from those who feel that *more* gun and ammo laws, rules and regulations or taxation will justify a drop in future gun violence in our state. I respectfully disagree. Perhaps Dr. Petit, who lost his family to violent criminals, would agree with me.

However, I have thought long and hard as to why I ask you to cancel S.B. 1076 in its entirety. Certainly the Constitution, the Bill of Rights and a ready Militia, according to law, come to mind. But, so many citizens may well be addressing those issues before you and they are important. I shall ask you to consider another reason, i.e., the difference in the definitions between murder and killing.

In Webster, **murder** is defined as, the **unlawful** and **malicious** or **premeditated killing** of one human being by another. Webster also defines the verb to kill as, **to cause the death of, make die, to put an end to, an act or instance of killing.**

Would you be grateful if someone had the legal capability, a gun, **to put an end to** (kill) the (murderer) before the act was fulfilled, especially if the perpetrator was about to **murder** you, your child, or a loved one? I would be grateful that someone put their life on the line to save me or my loved one.

Connecticut already has very strict laws on the books regarding gun control and it did not matter last December at Sandy Hook. The fact is that our students and teachers were vulnerable because of laws that are already on the books. Laws mean nothing to criminals who have **unlawful, malicious** or **premeditated** intent as their goal. Registration, limitations and taxation will not stop criminal violence.

Please consider not further burdening law-abiding citizens, who may or may not yet own a firearm, those who have never, ever, misused a firearm or those who have no intent to do harm to another human being. That person may just be the one who saves **YOUR** life one day.

Thank you so very much for your courtesy and cooperation regarding this matter.

Sincerely,

Melanie Phoenix
Essex, CT 06426