

Public Hearing Testimony for 03/14/13  
Connecticut State House

Opening

I first want to express how tragic the events at Sandy Hook were, my son was born with a severe heart defect, we faced several events through the years that he was close to death. He at one point was on the operating room table and unable to be revived. I say this so I can convey my understanding of what those parents has had to go through. After hours of my son being on by-pass and the transplant team looking for a new heart for him his surgeon never gave up and brought my son back to me.

That said:

Why can't we start with laws that already exist lock up violent criminals and keep them locked up.

I implore the state and the country's criminal justice system to arrest, try, and hold in prison violent criminals for the full duration of their sentences.

- 'June 27 Frankie Resto, had been recently released from prison under the state's new and controversial Risk Reduction Earned Credits program, wandered into an EZ Mart store and shot to death Ibrahim Ghazal, according to police who later apprehended and arrested Mr. Resto for the murder. ' Len Suzio State Senator
- And Kezlyn Mendez is accused of killing a convenience store clerk during a robbery in East Hartford in August
- Both men had recently been released from prison under the state's new "Risk Reduction Earned Credit Program."

Ban on commonly owned firearms:

- A previous AWB ban had no real effect on crime, as reported by media, as reported by but not only by:

Christopher S Cooper and Jeffrey Roth in a study from 1997 summarizing the effect of the AWB (Assault Weapons Ban)

A great many citizens fear a loss of their 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment Rights

- From reports from all news outlets I have payed attention to there

has been a record number of Pistol Permit applications and firearm sales have sky rocketed as people are afraid their rights are going to be abolished by new and oppressive state and federal regulations. From a data research document performed by Michael Gambina, there has been a increase in handgun sales in 2012 of 22%. Long gun sale which include assault weapons went up 26%.

- The same report states of all gun sales from this time period 61% were handguns, and 39% were long guns.
- With the verbiage in the plan being “commonly used firearms” It should be evident that there is a great many law abiding hunters and sport shooters using the fire arms on this list. There are many clubs and shooting competitions that are based on these firearms.

#### Implementation of a rationing scheme for gun purchases.

- Many collectors of which I am one make many trades and purchases as certain firearms appear on the market. If the permit and background check system is functional then it should be obvious that law abiding citizens are purchasing these fire arms. If rationing is a answer to murder then with ‘blunt force trauma’ being responsible for more deaths and injuries than rifles, any rifles, and those that are on the list to be banned. Yet, there is no rationing of sales at hardware stores selling hammers, or sporting goods stores that sell baseball bats.
- Private transfer of firearms is an area with inherent problems. It would be easy to see how the afore mentioned rationing may be an attempt to slow this problem.
- I see this as the second most difficult problem to solve. I can state

that all of the area message boards that have a buy sell and trade section for firearms and ammo the members go to great lengths to insure proper paperwork and authorization from the state DPS.

- A better solution might be to put heavy penalties on any crime involving illegal use and or straw purchases for transfer of any firearm. This goes back to my opening statement.

#### Magazine capacity restrictions

- In a recent news report from Norwich police responded to a “Man with a gun” report, March 7<sup>th</sup>, is the posted date. The officers fired 41 shots. Six of the 41 actually struck the alleged criminal. That constitutes a 15% hit rate. With a thirty round magazine, if a victim is fortunate 4 bullets will hit the attacker.
- With that hit ratio by trained police, me trying to defend myself a ten round magazine would produce a 1.33 bullets to stop an attacker.
- I would hate to put my life on the line only armed with 1.33 rounds of ammunition. With this math I will be attacked injured and/or dead before the second round is able to even get in the chamber and be fired.

#### Mental Health Problems as Part of this commissions task

Personally I find it tragic that “The Mental Health Aspect” of this commission’s study has been “Tabled” due to, as reported “Too Complicated”. This is a brief part of my testimony but I feel I can sum it up by asking the commission that if Cancer, HIV, and Automobile safety among many others, should have been tabled due to the complicated nature of their solution. I hope and pray the those

researchers do not decide to "Table" their work.

Closing

I hope and pray that this Bi-Partisan commission, all be it nearly 2-1 majority predisposed to follow Governor Malloy and Mr Christopher Murphy, both of which seem to have already closed their minds to anything but, criminalizing me and my fellow sportsmen. Please take time to consider how much damage to the Constitution of the United States, as well as the Constitution of the state of Connecticut itself is possible. The very first family of a Sandy Hook victim, that testified at the initial workshop hearing, (I was there),(paraphrasing) he emphatically stated he did not want a new law, he did not desire further restrictions on fire arms. He begged for a serious look and construction of a plan to deal with Mental Health of our citizens. The strength this father had to face the panel and not lash out at legal firearm owners was inspirational. I would hope that this commission will approach the upcoming proposal, and at the way it may cause a large portion of Connecticut's population to be criminals.

Respectfully,

Paul Tankesley

Chaplin, CT