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March 13, 2013

Dear Committee Members,

In Connecticut's Uniform Crime reports, from 1994 to 2011, there were 2138 Murders in the state. 361 were committed with a knife. 139 were beaten to death with bare hands or feet. 106 were killed with blunt objects. The total number of people murdered with a rifle were 36. If you factor in Sandy Hook your total number is 63 in 18 years. This is in a state with 3.4 million people. That means the odds of you being murdered in the state of Connecticut with ***ANY TYPE of RIFLE*** is 1 in 971,500; the odds of being hit by lightning is 1 in 770,000. Think about that.

Violent crime has been falling for the last 20 years, not rising that is including mass murders. We know Adam Lanza did not buy the weapons or own them, he stole them after murdering the lawful owner. Why are we trying restrict others ability to own or purchase rifles based on case where the criminal did actually purchase them? This makes no sense.

In regard to SB1076, first I do see how any new permit system put into place without a blanket grandfathering of every current gun owner and every current gun. Failure to do so would be a violation of article 1 section 9 of the US Constitution. In terms of having a police chief use "suitability" as criteria for issuing a permit is a violation of the 14th amendment equal protection clause. I might remind you that the Rev Martin Luther King Jr was deemed unsuitable. Having to surrender property without compensation is a violation of the 5th amendment.

Next we do not have a police report on the Sandy Hook Murders as of yet. Without knowing details how can we can possibly construct a solution, if we do not know what the problem actually is. This issue should be tabled until after the report.

Finally I hear that polls indicate there is support for these new laws with the general public. That would be great if we lived in democracy. However we live in republic were the rights of the individual rights, are not subject to whims of the majority.

