

**Robert Olson**

**Testimony Before the Public Safety & Security Committee  
March 14, 2013**

Dear Committee Members,

I would like to thank you all for the opportunity to provide testimony today regarding pending firearms legislation.

I know time is brief, so I will comment only on bills that I think are most important. I would like to go on record as opposing any new infringements on responsible citizen's rights to own, possess and use firearms, magazines of varying capacity, and ammunition.

Committee Bill 505 – An Act Concerning the Minimum Age to Purchase a Rifle or Other Long Gun:

I oppose this bill only because I find it ironic that an 18 year old serving their country for two years in the military will have to wait an additional year after discharge before they could purchase a rifle or shotgun of their own. If the Armed Forces trust them with a rifle, why shouldn't the State of Connecticut?

Committee Bill 506 – An Act Requiring Background Checks For All Private Firearms Sales:

While in theory this seems like a good idea, my belief is that this process would be abused by the state and become a 'back door' registry for all long guns. For this reason, I oppose it.

Senate Bill 1071 – An Act Concerning Additional Funding for the Criminal Injuries Compensation Fund:

I oppose this because it is yet another tax on legal firearms owners to pay for injuries that we very rarely cause. Excise taxes are already built into the price of firearms and ammunition, and another tax would just add to the price, making them unaffordable to many people.

Senate Bill 1076 – An Act Concerning the Reduction of Gun Violence:

This proposed law reads like a gun grabbers Christmas wish list! It is a direct infringement of our rights, and by design, it is an attempt to attrition the number of firearms in private possession. It is fraught with legal tripwires and land mines that are burdensome to comply with, even for the modest collector. It effectively creates a caste system with its carve outs and special exemptions for law enforcement and employees of various state agencies. I have the right to protect myself and my family. We the citizens should, at the minimum, have the same protection available for ourselves as the Connecticut State Police. This bill, if enacted, will not do a thing to prevent violence of any kind. It is an attempt to place all the woes of the world on the shoulders of people who are admittedly, a minority in this state.

Which leads me to my closing thought; I read with some disbelief, these published poll results that show 'overwhelming' support for more gun control and outright bans on possession of certain firearms. If the latest Quinnipiac poll showed overwhelming public support for the institution of an equally offensive 'poll tax', would folks in this building engage in a race to the bottom to enact such legislation?

Respectfully Submitted,  
Robert Olson - Middletown