

TO: Public Safety and Security Committee

March 14, 2013

I have reviewed several of the bills that were written in the interest of safeguarding the citizens of Connecticut. Unfortunately there isn't anything there that safeguards our liberty.

I have been a law abiding Connecticut resident my entire life. I just turned 70 last month. I seriously resent the thought of having to abide by the overreaching legislation that was recently written in the interest of keeping us safe. This whole thing was started by the horrible and senseless murders committed last December in Newtown. It should be borne in mind that this crime was committed by a young man who was apparently mentally disturbed and was probably a product of bad parenting as well. As a result of this horrific crime, many find the need to "do something" in order to prevent things like this from happening again.

Unfortunately, the main thrust of "doing something" is aimed at the wrong people, and is overdone. It seems that when things like this happen, innocent people have to suffer for the misdeeds of a few.

Legislation such as what is proposed in SB1076, as an example, treats me, a law abiding citizen, like a would-be criminal. This greatly restricts the freedom that I have enjoyed my entire life and makes me wonder whether using a firearm for sport or hunting will put me in prison because of some part of the proposed law that I may not be aware of. SB 1076 is a complex piece of legislation.

I urge you to focus on improvements to Connecticut's mental health system and on school safety rather than focusing on legislation that will do nothing to stop criminals from using firearms. Anyone that wants to commit a crime will not review the law before committing a crime.

Then there is the Second Amendment to the Constitution. These laws do, in fact, infringe on our right to bear arms. These laws make ammunition purchase expensive and the use of firearms for recreational purposes complicated. My worst fear is that we embark on a path that Germany did prior to the Second World War where firearms were confiscated from the population.

Your job as legislators is to keep us free by preserving our liberty. We will keep ourselves safe if you let us.

Respectfully submitted

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