

Committee Members,

I unfortunately cannot attend the public safety hearing on March 14 concerning the new proposed gun control laws in the state of Connecticut. I hereby offer my opinion that although I agree with more thorough background checks for purchasing of any weapon, I cannot support any legislation which controls gun purchases or limits magazine capacities and I definitely cannot support any legislation that forces law abiding gun owners to become "registered" for having weapons in their household.

Firstly, a weapon is a danger only in the hand of a criminal or someone who is mentally unstable. New legislation (or current legislation not being enforced) should focus on these issues. Secondly, proposed legislation is trying to vilanize a weapon based on it's appearance and not performance ability. By the same ideals, it would be more dangerous to own a fast car that looks fast as opposed to a car that looks like junk but still moves as quickly. You cannot make generalizations based on appearance, we should've learned this lesson from civil right's laws enacted years ago! Thirdly, I cannot support any legislator that forces law abiding citizens to become registered on a "list" that is open to the public stating that he/she owns a gun. Registration is a breech of privacy and opens up law abiding citizens to scrutiny which they should not be subjected to. The protection of a persons self, family and property is a private manner and should be left up to the individual; it is not up for legislative debate and regulation.

In short, I do not agree and cannot support the proposed legislation that the public saftey committee is meeting to discuss on March 14, 2013. I propose that several more unbiased public hearings and poles be done on these matters and that legislation not be slammed through the legislature just because gun control is the "hot topic" of the day. A more thorough investigation into the issues at hand would prove that early and effective screening for mental illness and proper treatment would in the long term solve the problem at hand. The second ammendment is a part of our country's basic laws and it is not up for re-interpretation at either the state or federal levels. Please vote your conscience, however understand that come election time, many of us will also vote our conscience and we will base it on what you do now.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Sean Johnston