

Dear Public Safety committee;

I wish to encourage you to consider passing Smart legislation that protects both the safety of the general population of CT and gun owners rights.

It is time for gun registration in CT to keep guns out of the hands of criminals and the mentally ill. We register our cars, boats and pets yet guns which kill thousands each year are sold/exchanged freely in CT. How does it make sense that dangerous weapons are not licensed and registered? Gun owners should be required to take lessons and pass a gun safety class similar to getting a drivers license.

Assault weapons need to be banned - Military style "Assault" weapons do not belong in the public sector. These are dangerous "Assault" weapons that are only intended to kill people. They are not sport weapons. They are not for personal protection. They are weapons intended for mass killing.

Reasonable gun control does not violate the second amendment rights of citizens. Even if "Assault" weapons are banned citizens can still purchase many other types of handguns or rifles that are readily available. Asking citizens to license & register guns at the state level does not interfere with the second amendment since this is common practice in society for other dangerous items.

In 2008 Justice Scalia aptly described the limitations of second amendment rights and what laws states can pass:

"Like most rights, the Second Amendment right is not unlimited. It is not a right to keep and carry any weapon whatsoever in any manner whatsoever and for whatever purpose: For example, concealed weapons prohibitions have been upheld under the Amendment or state analogues. The Court's opinion should not be taken to cast doubt on longstanding prohibitions on the possession of firearms by felons and the mentally ill, or laws forbidding the carrying of firearms in sensitive places such as schools and government buildings, or laws imposing conditions and qualifications on the commercial sale of arms. [*United States v. Miller*'s holding that the sorts of weapons protected are those "in common use at the time" finds support in the historical tradition of prohibiting the carrying of dangerous and unusual weapons."

Additionally, Former Justice John Paul Stevens was quoted by the New York Times: "Even as generously construed in *Heller*, the Second Amendment provides no obstacle to regulations prohibiting the ownership or use of the sorts of automatic weapons used in the tragic multiple killings in Virginia, Colorado, and Arizona in recent years.

Smart gun control protects innocent citizens and gun owners rights. Smart gun control keeps guns out of the hands of the mentally ill & criminals.

Smart gun control protects all the citizens of CT.

Sincerely,

Steven Leibin