

## **Testimony of William Boylan to the Legislative Committee Re: Proposed Gun Control Legislation**

Thank you for taking the time to read this. You are encouraged to read it in its entirety because your political future may well depend on it.

I belong to a group called Connecticut Citizen's Defense League. Our membership has grown to near 5,000 and continues to grow, since the disgraceful tragedy mongers first came forward after that terrible day in December. We and other like minded groups around the state are amassing a war chest that will be used to challenge in the courts, *any* new gun control legislation that passes the legislature and is signed into law.

**Note: I am speaking only for myself here, and not for CCDL or any other group.**

Any legislator proposing or voting for *any* new gun law, whether passed or not, will be vigorously opposed in the next election. We are digging deep into our own pockets, some of us at great personal sacrifice, to assure this.

As you deliberate the issues at hand, consider the fact that any new laws enacted to further restrict the rights of law abiding citizens will be widely ignored. Consider whether or not there are enough prison cells available to house the tens of thousands, if not hundreds of thousands of formerly law abiding citizens who choose to nullify the law by ignoring it. Consider whether or not the judicial system is capable of handling the overwhelming volume of new cases headed their way and how that might hinder the prosecution of real, violent, criminals. Consider the law enforcement resources that would be drawn away from protecting the Public, to go after once law abiding People. Consider also that juries themselves might nullify such laws by rendering "not guilty" verdicts. Consider the potential for mass civil disobedience once our neighbors, relatives and friends are hauled away to jail. Consider that, since they took an oath to uphold the US and Connecticut Constitutions, (as did you) many local and state police officers could choose not to enforce unconstitutional laws and in the event of civil disobedience, side with the People. Lastly, consider that there could well be many individuals who refuse to give up without a fight and the potential for bloodshed. That blood would be on the hands of those who vote for these unconstitutional proposals and the governor who signs them into law.

Below is a list of other unintended (hopefully unintended) consequences to the latest barrage of gun control proposals that I presented to a number of you as part of the “fringe of the fringe” who gathered at the L.O.B. to lobby this past Monday. Following that are definitions of the terms used in the Second Amendment, which were upheld by the US Supreme Court in DC v Heller.

## Unintended Effects of “Common Sense” Gun Control

- 1) **Tens of thousands will become instant criminals.** These laws will be defied, en masse. A cursory study of history reveals that registration *always* leads to confiscation.
- 2) **Low income people will be disenfranchised** because they cannot afford the license and registration fees. *My wife and I cannot get a pistol permit as it is, because we can't afford the classes and fees associated with the permit process.*
- 3) The ability to defend against multiple home invaders will be diminished. **Hitting a target in a combat situation is difficult.** Changing magazines under duress, (if you even can find them in the middle of the night) is also difficult and leaves one vulnerable.
- 4) I have personally used a firearm to defend myself and others several times. Only once was it necessary to actually fire my weapon. (Vicious dog attack) The mere presence of a firearm is often enough to stop a crime before it happens.



My daughters, Miranda and Jennifer. Miranda's son, Brandon goes to collage next year, leaving her alone in a house at a secluded location. Jennifer's daughter, Isabelle is in first grade and her husband, a Marine is often gone for long periods of time, leaving them alone. It could have been one of my grand child's schools, as easily as that in Newtown.

- 5) **Police have no obligation to protect a particular individual.** The first responder is *always* the victim. My daughters must not be restricted in their right defense of themselves and my grandchildren.

**Article First, Sec. 15 of the Connecticut Constitution:**

**“Every citizen has a right to bear arms in defense of himself and the state.”**

**Second Amendment to the US Constitution:**

**“A well regulated militia, being necessary for the security of a free state, the right of the people to keep and bear arms, shall not be infringed.”**

**US Supreme Court in District of Columbia v Heller:**

**Well regulated:** “Finally, the adjective “well-regulated” implies nothing more than the imposition of proper discipline and training. (referring to “a well-regulated militia, composed of the body of the people, trained to arms”).” Pgs 23, 24

**Militia:** “The “militia” comprised all males physically capable of acting in concert for the common defense. The Anti federalists feared that the Federal Government would disarm the people in order to disable this citizens’ militia,” Pg 2

**Security of a free state:** “The phrase “security of a free state” meant “security of a free polity,” not security of each of the several States . . .” Pg 24 (Merriam Webster, polity – 4 a : the form or constitution of a politically organized unit)

**Right of the people:** “The first salient feature of the operative clause is that it codifies a “right of the people.” The . . . Constitution and the Bill of Rights use the phrase “right of the people” two other times . . . The Ninth Amendment uses very similar terminology . . . All three of these instances unambiguously refer to individual rights, not “collective” rights . . . Pg 2

**Keep and bear arms:** “Although the phrase implies that the carrying of the weapon is for the purpose of “offensive or defensive action,” it in no way connotes participation in a structured military organization. From our review of founding-era sources, we conclude that this natural meaning was also the meaning that “bear arms” had in the 18th century.” Pg 14

**Shall not be infringed:** “The very text of the Second Amendment implicitly recognizes the pre-existence of the right and declares only that it “shall not be infringed.” Pg 19

**Note:** Virtually every proposal before the General Assembly is unconstitutional. Should they be signed into law, they will be challenged in the courts, exhausting state resources that could better be used elsewhere.

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