
From: Joseph Lane <j.lane1944@yahoo.com>
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To: JudTestimony
Subject: Auden Grogins hearing

I have been a Connecticut resident for 35 years. I consider Connecticut a true bright spot for rational discourse on public matters. I may occasionally think about leaving during the winter, however I am too proud of our state to actually leave. I believe that our government has acted in its citizens best interests with regard to the laws debated and enacted regarding firearms since the massacre at Sandy Hook Elementary school. I am very proud our lawmakers were willing to listen to the many competing voices. I wish to add my voice to the people of our state who want our government to limit our exposure to weapons that have no place in the public arena and individuals who have a criminal record, pending criminal actions against them, or are unfit to possess firearms due to mental defect.

I will argue that those who use our 2nd Amendment to espouse that arming civilians without restrictions was part of our founders intent or writings have not read the many documents tied to their thinking and the debates regarding the adoption of the 2nd Amendment. There were in fact many restrictions included and enforced as part of establishing a citizens militia. For example, weapons were to be kept in working order and ammunition and gun powder were to be kept in a safe, dry place. Further, regular inspection by government authorities were prescribed and enforced during that period of our history.

Another underlying principal of the 2nd Amendment for the founders was parity of arms to protect against an overbearing domestic government and/or invasion by a foreign power. The muskets, ball, and powder available to the citizens of the militia were equal to, had parity with, the arms available to any government, foreign or domestic. For that fundamental principal, parity of arms, to exist today, private citizens would have to have access to, and the right to purchase and operate, such items as Bradley Fighting Vehicles, Abrams Tanks, Apache Attack Helicopters, live satellite feed from military satellites, armed drones, Warthog attack jets, etc. Our society has long since decided that access to such armament for private citizens and/or private citizen groups is prohibited. Our government, as our voice, has the absolute right, and duty, to protect us and our civil society from armament suitable only for the armed services from falling into private hands.

It is my understanding there are people and groups wishing to kill Ms. Grogins confirmation as a Superior Court Judge solely on the grounds that as a legislator she cosponsored Senate Bill 1160. It is further my understanding that Ms. Grogins has 24-years experience as an attorney and she served 6-years on the Judiciary Committee for the General Assembly. Further, that her performance both as an attorney and a member of the Judiciary Committee has been outstanding in all respects. By any measure I can imagine, this experience and history of excellence more than qualifies Ms. Grogins as imminently qualified to act impartially, ethically, and with compassion for our fellow citizens in the capacity of a Superior Court judge, regardless of her views on the 2nd Amendment or any other matter she may have dealt with as an attorney, legislator, and private citizen.

I whole heartedly support her confirmation. I encourage all of you to do the same.

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