

As a taxpayer, voter, CT pistol permit holder and member of the NRA, I respectfully submit that gun bans are an ineffective means of achieving a safer community. Many citizens believe, as I do, that we have a chance to enact some very effective legislation which would greatly enhance the safety of our state and nation. To focus on banning weapons, effectively turning law abiding citizens into felons, is not a sensible approach. In order to confiscate that which was purchased, owned, and used according to the law, the state must be compelled to compensate those whose property is being taken. Where will this money come from? The resultant legal challenges and court decisions could take years. During the intervening years, elections and other events could sway public opinion away from the chance we have right now. We urge you to consider the following proposals as some which could be implemented quickly, and be far more effective toward the stated goal than a ban on certain types of weapons.

1- Close the "gun show loophole". We can all agree that this needs to happen. Simply require a carry permit to purchase at a gun show, and do the state paperwork. The organizers could pay for a state DPS employee for on-site approvals.

2. Enact a statute that provides for a police check on anyone who files the state paperwork and is denied. Also provide a hot line for instances like Adam Lanza's, where the prospect of a background check caused him to leave the store. Denial might be considered grounds for a search warrant, depending on the reason.

3. Require safe storage of firearms. This is already a state law, so we suggest a series of public service campaigns. Remind people to check their safes, highlight the common mistakes. We could add a fee to gun purchases to cover the expense.

4. Require paperwork and background checks on private sale of long guns, along with the required waiting period for non-permit holders.

5. Every gun manufacturer test fires every weapon and includes the case in a sealed envelope bearing the identifying information. Some states require that these be delivered to the state forensics lab. Connecticut is not among them. Let's change that.

6. Establish a gun offender registry. Model it exactly like the sex offender registry.

Thank you for your time and effort in this matter,

Alphonse Capozziello

21 Fox Run Road

Naugatuck, CT, 06770