

I think it is widely agreed upon that gun violence prevention will never be an easy fix. There are many factors that play into gun violence, several of which are not controlled by laws, but rather social mores and personal values. The social aspect will never be fixed overnight, and possibly may never be corrected at all. However, I do believe there are some things that we can keep in mind as we try to tackle the topic. We need to look at the root cause of gun violence, not the end instrument. We do not try to deter drunk driving by taking away every person's motor vehicle, the harmful end instrument, but rather try to control it through enforcement of the laws we have in place, and removing the license of those who have shown they can not control their driving under the influence. In the same sense, removing firearms from law abiding citizens hands, who would not use them unlawfully does not help fix the problem. Rather, those who think this is the solution are looking to control the wrong individuals. I am not against laws that would help our society control which hands firearms would be placed in. Background checks, restrictions on private sales, and careful approval of applications are things that would help control who is able to legally purchase firearms.

We should always keep in mind that no matter what laws we put in place, there will always be individuals who will break them and obtain firearms illegally. This should not be used as an argument to strip law abiding citizens of their right to protect themselves from those who would not comply with such a law- making our law abiding individuals a target simply by complying with a law. We should be sure that our citizens have an equal playing field against those who wish to do them harm, if that citizen chooses to arm him or herself. I am a female with a Connecticut issued Permit to Carry Pistols and Revolvers. Although I do not currently choose to carry a concealed weapon that is my decision, and I do not wish that option to be stripped of me if I ever decide I need that protection. As a small female, that firearm is something that I value to level a playing field if I were ever to be put in an unsafe position by a malicious person. I would not have to worry about my lesser comparison to their height, weight, stature, muscle mass, or speed. With a firearm in my hand, I can either convince them I am a poor choice in a target, or stop them if he or she irrationally decides to continue with an assault. Calling the police to act on my behalf may not be an option I have, and I defiantly won't have the time to wait for them to intervene.

As you move forward and try to manage this overwhelming issue of gun violence, I urge you to remember the causes of gun violence, rather than the instrument used to carry out these acts. It is not the oven that burns the bread, but the baker who fails to remember to remove it. It is not the car that maims the pedestrian, but rather the driver failing to pay attention to his surroundings. And it is definitely not the gun that does harm, but the criminal holding the weapon. Please do not remove my right to protect myself from those who wish to do me harm; as that ill-willed individual would surely not comply with any law enacted to 'protect' me.

Thank you for your time and willingness to listen to the law abiding, tax-paying, residents of Connecticut in your effort to better our state.

Sincerely,
Amanda Moore
Ellington, CT.