

I am writing in opposition to new gun legislation proposals being discussed at our state capitol. I was optimistic at first that real strides would be made toward school safety, mental health programs and restricting firearms access to people with a history of mental illness or a criminal background. After reading through the 60 bills currently being proposed I, as a lawful gun owner, feel as if I am being treated as a criminal. Nearly all proposals are aimed directly at law abiding citizens. None of these proposals would have prevented nor will they prevent another tragedy. Connecticut already has the fourth toughest gun laws. Uneducated people assume that you can just walk into a store and purchase a handgun. You can... after filling pages of paper work, waiting months and spending hundreds just to acquire a pistol permit. It is not a simple process and to make honest people jump through more hoops is unfair.

Adam Lanza broke countless laws so what is our first reaction? Make more laws! Criminals do not follow laws. Laws are nothing more than written words, they are not concrete barriers that prevent bad things from happening. Law abiding citizens do however follow laws and will be unfairly punished by the upcoming legislation. I have heard a group of Fairfield mothers speak out for more gun control, while I respect their opinions, I do not have the luxury of living in a safe, wealthy area, so I view my gun as tool protect myself and my loved ones. Determining how many rounds I should be allowed in a magazine should be determined by me. Most of the legislation is just "feel good " legislation that will have little to no effect on crime. I strongly oppose the gun control measures being proposed.

Here is my opposition to the following bills:

--Assault Weapons Ban- We already have a ban in place and we look to strengthen it by banning cosmetic features that have no affect on function what so ever. Ban it because it looks scary? Does not make sense. These weapons are used in so few murders, but yet many assume that if they are confiscated the world we be much safer, which is simply not true. This is nothing more than "feel good" legislation. As well as the fact that an Ar-15 is NOT an assault rifle. The Arma-lite 15 is a semi-auto civilian model that cannot be readily converted to fire full-auto. It is a popular varmint hunting and competition rifle.

--Ban on "hi-cap" magazines- Columbine took place with a Hi-Point carbine and TEN round magazines during the national assault weapons ban. It takes a split second to swap a magazine out. ( Not a clip, it is called a magazine). Nearly all handguns come with a magazine containing ten or more rounds and following New York's law essentially banning handgun is not what should be done. Gov Cuomo's bill allows people with ten round magazines to load them with seven rounds, does this mean that criminals are on the honor system as well? The only people that would be affected would be law abiding citizens. There are hundreds of thousands of these mags in our state, making this law unenforceable and would turn thousands of mothers and fathers into felons overnight. Those familiar with firearms also know that it is not uncommon for a self defense pistol to come with a 15 round magazine. If two individuals break into my home I do not feel that seven rounds is enough, especially since a pistol is only effective with proper shot placement.

--Registration/Insurance/50% ammo tax- Restricting gun ownership to the wealthy is not the right course of action. I should not have to pay a fee every two years to register an item that the state knows I have. So much paperwork is already filled out at the time of purchase. Do to self-

incrimination, a criminal cannot register his/ her firearm. So this only effects law abiding citizens.

We are the constitution state and I am a firm believer in our constitution and the rights it protects. If this is really about children I ask that we do what we can to prevent tragedies not just pass feel good legislation that has little to no effect. These events will occur again most likely very soon and at that point what freedoms will be threatened to be removed next? If someone commits a crime with a seven round, will they then be restricted to five? When will it stop? I thank the panel for letting our voices be heard and I ask that there be no knee-jerk reactions, but rather well thought out proposals. Once a freedom is lost it is gone for good.

Thank You,

Angel and Nicole Claudio