

Good Morning,

I am writing this letter to express my opposition and concerns with many of the proposed gun control bills. I am a legal gun owner, living in Granby, Connecticut. I have my Connecticut Pistol Permit, and have a collection of firearms, including pistols, rifles, and shot guns. I use the weapons for hunting, target / sport shooting, home protection, as well as some which are historical collector's items, or family guns which have been passed down from generation to generation. I firmly believe that there is room for some "sensible" changes which may in fact help to ensure the public's safety along with changes to mental health care, violent video games, poor parenting, and society in general. However, I feel that the most recent tragedy in Newtown is being exploited to get personal agendas on gun control passed. There is such a pressure to get these changes passed immediately, that people are not taking the time to really analyze whether the proposed legislation will actually have the effect they are looking for, and what other issues might arise from the new legislation. Knee-jerk legislation will not only infringe on the rights of gun owners everywhere, but they will not have the desired effects on public safety, and the logistics of implementing some of these laws have not been considered. Below are my concerns with the currently proposed bills:

Senate Bill 1- That the general statutes be amended to protect children, families and other individuals from violence by (1) strengthening provisions concerning the sale, possession and transfer of firearms, assault weapons and ammunition, and (2) enacting other measures to enhance safety in schools, residences and the community. Oppose: While this may be a good goal of some legislation this provides no specifics on how these things will be accomplished and leaves too much room, for the infringement of the Second Amendment.

Senate Bill 42- To strengthen the state's gun laws by providing that a person prohibited from possessing a firearm shall also be prohibited from possessing firearm ammunition. Support: This is a sensible, logical law, which would not infringe on the rights of legal gun owners.

House Bill 5112- To permit the disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act of the names and addresses of persons holding handgun permits. Oppose: This will not in any way prevent gun violence. It will only provide information to would be criminals, of which homes they should target, because they do not have guns, or which homes to target if they are looking to steal guns. It will also allow legal gun owner to become targets of harassment from people not sharing their beliefs. The purpose of this law is in the hopes that gun owners will give up their guns, because they do not want their personal information released. It is a political ploy to infringe on the rights of gun owners indirectly.

House Bill 5179- To permit firearm dealers seeking sale authorization numbers greater access to the Interactive Voice Response system of the Special Licensing and Firearms Unit of the Division of State Police. Support: This is a sensible law which will allow for better verification of valid gun permits, and help to prevent persons prohibited from purchasing a gun from doing so. This will actually help prevent guns from falling into the wrong hands, and will not infringe on the rights of law abiding gun owners.

Senate Bill 122- establish a class C felony offense, except for certain military and law enforcement personnel and certain gun clubs, for (1) any person or organization to purchase, sell, donate, transport, possess or use any gun except one made to fire a single round, (2) any person to fire a gun containing more than a single round, (3) any person or organization to receive from another state, territory or country a gun made to fire multiple rounds, or (4) any person or organization to purchase, sell, donate or possess a magazine or clip capable of holding more than one round. OPPOSE: This is anything but sensible. This would completely infringe on the second amendment, and would turn legal gun holders into felons overnight. Limiting gun owners from having any guns other than single round, would make the majority of guns in production illegal, of all of the guns in my collection, approximately 30, only 4 of them would be compliant. What then becomes of all of the guns which I owned legally, and would now become illegal? Is the state going to pay me for them? What about when I pass away, I can no longer pass down family heirlooms because they cannot be transferred? All of the legal reasons for firearms would be affected. It is common to require more than 1 shot when hunting, competition shooting is timed and requires more than 1 shot, and often you need more than 1 shot in self-defense. Having to re-load after a single shot is not practical in any of these situations. Also, how would this law be enforced? What is going to make the criminals, non-law-abiding citizens by definition, turn in their weapons? This law would only restrict the law abiding gun owners, and would not actually get the illegal guns off of the street.

Senate Bill 124: To prohibit the possession of certain ammunition feeding devices that accept more than ten rounds. Oppose: This legislation would have no impact on public safety. If an individual really wants to fire multiple rounds in a short time, they can just as easily use 3 ten round magazines, rather than 1

thirty round magazine. The amount of time needed for a magazine change is miniscule.

House Bill 5176: To specify uniform criteria for an application for a temporary state permit to carry a pistol or revolver. Support: This is sensible legislation, which will help to ensure that people who should be prohibited from owning fire arms are not able to get them. This may actually help to keep guns out of the hands of the wrong people, and will not infringe on the rights of legal gun owners.

Senate Bill 140: That the general statutes be amended to (1) require firearm owners to maintain liability insurance, and (2) establish a sales tax on the sale of ammunition at a rate of fifty per cent on the entire sales price, except such sales tax shall not apply to the sale of ammunition at a firing or shooting range, provided such sale is made to and used by the purchaser at the firing or shooting range during the same visit as the purchase. Oppose: This legislation does nothing other than make it financially prohibitive for legal gun owners to continue to own guns, and to use ammunition. It would be astronomical for an individual to carry liability insurance to own guns, if they are even able to find a company who would provide such insurance. This is simply another way of trying to force legal gun owners to have to give up their guns. A 50% tax on ammunition would make target and competition shooting financially prohibitive for many people, especially considering the current economic state.

As I said before, I support changes which would make it more difficult for the wrong people to get their hands on guns, however I do not agree with restricting the rights of law abiding gun owners. I am very concerned that new laws will be passed because of reactions to the tragedy in Newtown. Any reaction that is based purely on emotion and certain individual's personal beliefs on gun control will not increase public safety. I thank you for your time in reading this letter