

I am here today with a heavy heart. Today we are facing legislation that if it should pass, would turn law abiding citizens such as me into felons.

Not only am I a simple citizen, I am also a combat veteran. I served honorably in the United States Marine Corps for a total of eight years, achieving the rank of sergeant. I can speak with firsthand knowledge of what actual weapons of war can do. The fact of the matter is clear to anyone with a working knowledge of firearms.

Your typical AR15 is not the same thing as an M16 like those I carried during my service. An M16 has a selector switch which will allow it to fire multiple rounds with the single pull of a trigger, where as an AR15 is simply any other semi automatic, which fires one round with each separate pull of the trigger merely looking like an M16. In CT an AR15 has even less in common with an M16 due to CT's still standing assault weapons ban, where there may not be a bayonet lug or a compensator tip, usually incorrectly referred to as a flash hider.

Magazine capacity is also another factor which is arbitrary and meaningless. It will only affect those who are disinclined to be lawbreakers. To think that an individual, who already possesses an illegal assault weapon in CT, as they have been for nearly two decades, is suddenly going to turn in the magazines which go to his rifle, making them useless is extremely flawed thinking.

Any person with the desire to inflict harm unto others, is most likely not the type to adhere to these new laws. As has been reiterated to no end, criminals do not obey the law, hence making them criminals.

I have put my life on the very front line to defend this very nation. I nearly lost my life doing so. I have suffered injuries that will last me till the end of my life while fighting for this country.

We have freedoms in this country that are supposedly protected by the Constitution and enumerated within the Bill of Rights. I have sworn an oath to defend these freedoms, only to come home and have the very same people I defended try to take them away from me, and turn me into a criminal in the same breath.

It is a sad unfortunate fact that some people seek the need to harm others, but it is in reality fact. If one were to look at places with strict gun control such as Chicago and the nation's capitol, it is apparent that keeping arms away from the law abiding do nothing to curb violence and gun crimes.

Not that it matters much to anyone here, but I am getting older, and sadder, and less hopeful with the state of affairs as they are in CT. Should this legislation come to pass, I will be compelled to seek the freedom of another state. Again not that it matters to anyone here, but that is what my family and I will do.

I am starting to feel like the old warhorse which has been used and put out to pasture. I gave my all for this country, and now my ilk is no longer wanted. It is a sad day when after fighting to protect my freedom overseas, I have to come home and let them be stripped from me without a fighting chance.