

Dear Committee Members:

I am afraid you will put unnecessary limits on my gun and make it impossible for me to effectively defend my wife and home. Although we have an alarm system, like most people, we only set it when we leave or go to bed. What happens if our home is invaded when the alarm is off, like Dr. Petit's home in Cheshire, or the mother in Loganville, Georgia who recently saved her twin boys by shooting an ex-convict home invader?

I live in East Hartford. While overall CT crime rates have decreased (using differing time frames), East Hartford's rates have increased.

EX: [<http://www.cityrating.com/crime-statistics/connecticut/#.UQabib9ZWAI>], [http://easthartfordct.gov/Public_Documents/EastHartfordCT_Police/Management/stats].

I have a CT permit to carry. I own a Smith & Wesson M&P 9mm pistol with a 17 round magazine. I keep it locked and obey all safety rules. Why do I need 17 rounds? Simple - the first one to run out of bullets is the first to die! Violent robbers don't usually invade a home alone (Ex: Dr. Petit). I am afraid that the law you are considering, to limit magazines to 7 clips, would leave me outgunned by home invaders who always get higher-clip guns illegally, no matter what laws are passed.

Our history proves that gun laws do not stop violent criminals. They do, however, hinder people from defending themselves, as happened in the Texas "Luby's Cafeteria Massacre" in 1991. Dr. Suzanna Gratia Hupp had a handgun in her car but didn't carry it in with her because TX law at that time, prevented carrying concealed firearms. She testified she regretted obeying the law and felt she could have at least slowed the massacre down, if not stop it. Her mother & father were killed because she couldn't use her gun.

I'm afraid that by adding a large tax to purchasing bullets and by instituting gun liability insurance, you limit my ability to defend myself. My wife and I live on a fixed income. We can't afford these. Who will pay to replace my 17-round cartridges if they become illegal? I hope you grandfather them in. Is the extra sin tax perhaps more for raising additional state revenue, than for saving lives, G-d forbid, in some of your minds? A gun liability insurance would help Insurance companies more than victims. They would profit handsomely from it. Why tie up our courts with even more liability cases?

I'm afraid that in a national emergency, such as the explosion of a terrorist dirty bomb, or riots, limiting my rounds and the number of bullets I can

afford will kill my family in such a chaos. You must have heard the New Year's eve reports that Times Square police were being prepared for the possibility of a dirty bomb? We live in such divisive political times, where Washington seems to blame every political, economic, gender, nationality or racial group for our problems; where the Invade-Wall-St. groups were actually encouraged by some politicians; that riots - racial or otherwise - are not inconceivable. I lived through the chaos and robbery of the '70s race riots. Or look at the current European economic riots!

I'm afraid that one of the psychological "controls" you may consider for guns is to make doctors and psychologists mandated reporters if their patients own guns. I am a diabetic of 53 years and suffer from intestinal neuropathy that is only helped by anti-depressants. I cannot obtain them without seeing a psychiatrist. I'm afraid this will put me on some government list of people who cannot purchase firearms and thus prevent me from defending myself.

I mourn the deaths of the precious Newtown souls terribly. I was horrified when I heard of it. I grieve for the parents and relatives who can never make sense of this tragedy. But in my humble opinion, no more "gun control" laws enacted by Connecticut or the Federal government will have any effect for this reason:

The problem is in our culture, in our society. The problem is not the guns, or school security or mental health per se. Yes, these areas have to be addressed, but only as parts of a greater whole. The larger problem lies in the dissolution and division of our society. This is my biggest fear. If I get upset over violent movies, violent video games, uncivil speech and actions, lack of jobs, lack of morality and pride in our country, how much more afraid and angry will a mentally unbalanced person be when exposed to these things? How can we not expect violence when divisiveness, arrogance and incivility are so prevalent in our politics and media? We are no longer a melting pot of shared values. We insist on "the rights" of every group to gain influence and control. We are politically correct to the point of revising our history, language, humor, sports, values and religion. We listen to rap music that often encourages rage and violence. If we cannot sing "America The Beautiful" without the lyrics "G-d Shed His Grace on Thee" then violence is here to stay

What I believe we must do is "control" violent media - movies, video games, web sites, etc. I don't believe that will limit free speech rights because we are looking to cure our societal diseases and degeneration. We prohibit selling pornography to minors, or drugs in school zones. Haven't people made free speech and free market arguments against those laws?

We must "control" divisive politics and incivility. We must get back to teaching our children morality and values and spirituality. We must control rap music. We must de-emphasize texting and facebooking and and get back to civil conversations. We must emphasize our common responsibilities rather than our rights. We must speak out against Washington reviving racial unrest. I believe Rev. Martin Luther King is turning in his grave to hear politicians invoke racism for politics - as when VP Biden, the current champion of Federal gun control, says Republicans "are going to put us back in chains!" We must take pride in our Constitution, our history, and our economic freedom, not try to erode or go around them.

I know that if we knee-jerk-react to controlling our freedom to defend ourselves because "Everyone else is looking at Connecticut to see how tough we will be", we will make matters worse. There's a famous saying "You may not be able to make things better but you can certainly make them worse. I think if we have the guts to speak out against some of the evils detailed above, which encourage violence, we will have made a good start in controlling gun violence.

Let's see Connecticut pass laws limiting the causes of violent gun behavior rather than the guns themselves. Let's show the rest of the country what we can do!

Thank you for considering what I have to say.

MS Anonymous