

Members of the committee thank you for the opportunity speak on the matter of our society's violence as it affects firearms ownership.

First my name is Art Daigle I was certainly saddened by the tragedy in Newton my heart and prayers go out to all the victims and their families. I am a firearms enthusiast. I served In the Ct Army National Guard as a small arms repairman. Currently work as a product development engineer at Colt Defense. It was my enjoyment of the shooting sports that brought about both careers.

As far as removing the names of pistol permit holders from a confidential status. We have seen the repercussions in our neighboring state of New York where gun owners names and addresses where released and even placed on a map, This caused at a minimum harassment of gun owners and in the worse case creating a road map for criminals to avenge their arresting officer or corrections officer that was responsible for their arrest and detention. And a list of places to burglarize to steal firearms or a list of soft targets easily robbed.

Next is the purposed assault weapons ban. What is an assault rifle? From the bills I have read the characteristics used to deem a firearm an assault weapon are irrelevant to that firearms ability to be misused. A bayonet lug as purposed in the previous assault weapons ban has no effect on the functionality of the firearm. Nor does a pistol grip, heat shields or for that matter a flash hider. These are cosmetics; a flash hider may reduce the visible signature of the firearms discharge. This is negligible compared to the 120 decibel sound signature. If you take away all the things that are purely cosmetic you in fact have a firearm that functions no differently than any other semiautomatic sporting firearm.

Magazine capacity limits. I'm sorry but I feel that I should be equally armed should I have to defend myself, and since the laws only pertain to people that don't break them I'm going to bet that some one that wants to do harm to myself and family is not going to turn in his 10 plus round magazines so I feel that I should be able to keep mine. The argument could be attempted that with training one shot should be enough and there is a purposed bill pertaining to that also what happens when there are multiple assailants or if a gun fight where to break out it is conceivable if not likely that in the stress of the situation that even the best trained shooter may not be able to incapacitate the assailant without the capability of multiple shots, how many is that I cannot answer as each situation would present its self differently. Myself I'd rather be alive and have bullets left over than find out that 10 rounds was 1 round to little my wife is left without a husband and my son without a father.

I do support background checks as I don't want unstable people or criminals buying a firearm.

What troubles me most is that when a tragedy like this happens that the first response it to ban firearms which time and time again has done nothing to stop or even slow down violence.

And never see proposals that will actually curb violence in fact the trend tends to be exactly the opposite.

Bills for early release programs, bills to cut back mental health spending. All of which have the potential to increase violence by not protecting society from dangerous individuals.

We haven't even started with the economic impact of some of this legislation. I work in a factory with over 600 employees that make firearms, how are you going to explain to them that they have to find another job in this economy? What about the unemployment benefits for all these people this is just one company what about the others the vendors for these companies the retailer's that sell firearms, 10s of thousand Connecticut residents.

The existing firearms and magazines, is the state going to buy them from their owners and at what cost to the tax payer. Figure that 30+ round magazines are going for upwards of 100\$ each. What about the firearms themselves where talking about millions of dollars. In this economy? With this State's financial situation.

Thank you again for your time to hear my opinion on these matters