

January 25, 2013

Dear Honorable Senators/Representatives of the State of Connecticut:

I am writing to you today because I am unable to attend the Public Hearing Testimony for Gun Violence Prevention on January 28, 2013. I feel the need to voice my opinion because this great country allows me to do so, and I am very passionate about this subject. Just so you have a little background as to where I'm coming from, I am a mid-thirties female who grew up learning about firearms, participating primarily in recreational target shooting and hunting. As I am grown now, I continue to participate in these activities as well as upholding a permit to carry a pistol. I do not own a pistol or carry one, although I am very grateful to have the choice to do so, if I wish. As I watch the news on a daily basis I can't help but lean more towards this choice to actually carry. I can't help think, what if? Nobody can help me, but myself, and I need to be prepared to do so.

I do not want criminals to have guns anymore than you, but I do not expect criminals to respect laws. They will be broken and I will not have a police officer by my side at every waking minute to protect me. There comes a point, where reality tells me I must be proactive and aware of my surroundings. Tragedies will happen, there will always be laws broken, and there will always be criminals. Making more laws, for a decreasing amount of law enforcement officers, is counterproductive. Concentrating on more security and showing authority is far more productive in my opinion. You have a very difficult job, trying to protect everyone, all the time. I commend you for your service and efforts.

When considering these proposed laws, please look at who they will affect. Will they change to actions of people that are already unlawful? Does the State of CT have the police man power to enforce these laws? I know that respectful, law abiding gun owners like me will obey the new laws, because we have no intentions of committing any crimes. What about the people that do have intentions or the potential of committing serious crimes. Will they obey the laws?

One last point I would like to touch on. In case you are not aware of recent circumstances involving a very large and popular sportsman outdoor show, for hunting and fishing enthusiasts, it is worth mentioning. Although the attendees are a very small niche of gun owners in this nation, what has transpired in the last week is a perfect example of how strongly people will stand up for their right to bear arms. The corporate company in charge of promoting the show, made the decision to not allow the sale or display of modern sporting rifles (also called AR's). This in turn caused celebrity speakers, vendors, and nationwide sponsors to decline from attending the show. This company's decision affected not only the integrity of themselves and the show, but loss of income to all the vendors. If there are less vendors and speakers, there is less attendance. Less attendance causes loss of sales to the rest of the vendors. Again, this is a very small percentage of gun owners, but a very good example of these gun owners defending what they believe in and the snow ball affect it has many others. I fear for

extreme gun laws in Connecticut, and how it will affect the already troubled economy. There is potential for loss of sales, income tax, loss of jobs and businesses, and potential for people moving out of state.

I am very confident that Senators/Legislators of Connecticut have the resources to do the research, and make informed decisions in the weeks to come. Please, listen to the people. I am very grateful that I am able to voice my concern to you, and hopefully help in your decision making. Thank you very much for you time.

Sincerely,

Ashlee A. Leone
Ellington, CT 06029