

Hello,

My name is Benjamin Smith, I live in Newtown, Connecticut and have lived here my entire life.

The tragedy that befell this town on December 14, 2012 is one that our little town will be known for, throughout the rest of human history. It was a sad, unnecessary tragedy that will burden our hearts and minds for the rest of our lives.

I know some of the families directly effected by this tragedy, I know many of the first responders, I know the volunteer firefighters that were on scene and the EMTs that stood idly by their ambulances praying for survivors. As I said, this is a tragedy that will burden our hearts and minds for the rest of our lives.

I write this email, today because I'm a concerned citizen. I'm concerned that the emotions running through you all will dictate a punishment on those law abiding citizens that don't deserve to be punished. Logic, Senators, is what needs to prevail in order to lessen gun violence.

Adam Lanza was not a law abiding citizen. Adam Lanza was a mentally disturbed criminal that stole his mother's weapons, murdered her and continued on a rampage of hatred.

Why do we ultimately seek to punish those individuals that obey the law?

New York, in an act of emotional zeal, has punished it's law abiding citizens to a degree that over 100,000 citizens (as of this moment) have signed petitions to revoke and/or challenge the laws. Their own LEO's at this moment, are technically, walking around the streets illegally because the "great SAFE act" failed to allow them to protect citizens at their full capacity.

I now, sit here and read the new bill proposals, BH 5561-6014 ~ SB 277-615; why do you seek, with such zeal, to punish those that do not break the laws?

Less than 0.1% of all gun related crime in this country is committed by those that actually own a permit. 0.1% of those that LEGALLY possess a firearm, commit crime in this country. That's less then 1%. Most of these bills, seek to punish the less then 1% because of the crimes of the 99% that possess these weapons, illegally.

I do, however, actually agree with a few of these.

I actually agree with HB 5953, HB 5654, HB 5676, HB 5937, HB 5660 ~ I support these because they're punishing those that would seek to break the law, they're punishing criminals.

I also agree with SB 307, SB 367, SB 478, SB 503, SB 506, ~ I support these laws because they largely address the issues within the system currently and WOULD benefit us all for a safer tomorrow.

I also agree with mental health checks and safety classes for individuals whom seek to own a firearm. Unfortunately, the rest, the vast majority of them, seek to strip law abiding individuals, like myself, who have never been arrested, who have never harmed another individual, who have

never committed a crime, of our rights and render us criminals, just like New York, very recently, did.

I'm not a criminal, I've never broken the law, I've never harmed another individual. I ask, for my sake, that you don't enact laws that would label me a criminal for owning an assault rifle when, never once, have I put anyone or anything, in danger.

If you have any further questions or needs from me, I'm very much available.

I appreciate your time.

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