

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee,

My name is Brenda Bednar. I live in Stafford Springs, CT and I am appearing here today to offer testimony in **OPPOSITION** of Bill #H5158 An Act Concerning Firearms Regulation.

IT IS MY BELIEVE THIS BILL WILL BE INEFFECTIVE IN PREVENTING GUN CRIME AND VIOLENCE.

While I applaud the committee's efforts in trying prevent gun violence and keep CT safe, I am convinced that this legislation will not come close to accomplishing that goal. Unfortunately, this proposed Bill will only impact those of us who already follow the gun laws already in existence by purchasing our firearms lawfully and keeping them in a responsible manner.

This proposed law will be ineffectual because it targets the wrong people. Law-abiding gun owners are not the culprits in these violent crimes, but we will be the only ones affected by these restrictions. Criminals do not purchase their guns legally and they certainly do not care about any laws presently on the books, nor will they care to adhere to any new laws of restriction. Those of us who already comply with all presently standing Laws, Restrictions, Rules and Regulations are not the problem. We are not a threat to public safety, but we are the only ones this new Bill would punish. It will have no impact on crime or criminal behavior.

In the past, gun bans and gun control restrictions have done nothing to prevent criminals from obtaining or carrying illegal firearms. They do not purchase their guns lawfully, nor do they carry them legally. They do not abide by any restrictions on so-called "assault weapons" and they will not care about limitations put on the number of rounds a magazine or gun can hold. The rifles that have been erroneously labeled as "assault weapons" are nothing of the sort, and the continual use of that term is a disservice to those who own one and have never committed a crime with it, nor pointed it another human being. The repeated use of that label serves only to instill and encourage outright fear in the general population and those who don't understand firearms.

THIS BILL WILL BE IMPRACTICAL TO ENFORCE.

Those criminals intent on committing violence against the people of this state are already in possession of these firearms as well as high capacity magazines. This Bill does nothing at all to address that reality. This Bill will only render law abiding citizens defenseless against the fire power that violent criminals already carry.

I understand that this committee was formed in response to public outcry for better laws that will ensure everyone's safety, but these proposals are a false remedy. They will not prevent gun violence against the population. Criminals will commit crimes regardless. The laws and restriction are being followed to the letter by those of us who do abide the law. These same laws are ignored by those who want to commit violent crimes. The answer lies in enforcing the laws already enacted.

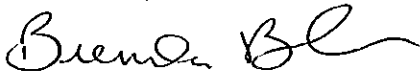
If the state cannot enforce the laws already on the books, how in the world does it intend to enforce any new laws? No law can prevent or deter the natural propensity for some people to commit evil acts. The **ONLY** people laws ever restrict are those who abide the laws to begin with. These new gun control laws will only succeed in punishing law abiding citizens for someone else's criminal behavior. Punish violent

criminals to the full extent of the law; only when we start doing that and get serious about violence in our society, will it begin to deter people from committing those acts. Violent criminals and murderers are being let out of prison and are taking lives AFTER they are released back into society. Why punish law abiding citizens more harshly than the people who are already identified as a danger to the public? This makes no sense.

Life sentences for anyone committing a crime while brandishing a deadly weapon, or wielding an object in a threatening manner. THAT is a proper response to this problem. That would be a proportional response to those crimes. In that same vein, bringing back the death penalty for anyone who takes a life while committing a crime should also have a large impact on the violent crimes rate. Our laws and enforcement of sentencing violent criminals is lacking, to say the least. If legislators truly wish to bring forth a viable solution to violent crime, enact and enforce true punishments for those who commit them. Right now, they have little to fear. The solution to that problem is not going to come from tying the hands of law abiding citizens and rendering all of us defenseless to those who would do us harm. We are not the problem to begin with.

In closing, I applaud the committee's attempts to curb gun violence with focus on keeping our children and families safe, but I respectfully state that these proposals are not the correct solution to this problem. They will be ineffective in keeping communities safe from criminals who will not heed these or any other laws, restrictions or bans.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Brenda Bednar".

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