

To whom it may concern,

I cannot imagine the pain and anguish felt by the family's of those 20 angels who were slain by a madman. I can understand that lawmakers feel the need to prevent tragedies like this from ever happening again. However, I don't think it is as simple as that. There isn't any magic legislation that can prevent evil. Many have been looking to stricter gun laws to perhaps make us safer. I fear this is a knee jerk reaction to a tragedy that will only hurt the rights of law abiding citizens and will do nothing to prevent crime. I have a right to be able to protect my family and no legislator should be able to take that away from me. Many people feel that semiautomatic "assault rifles" should be banned. The media created hysteria has led many to believe these are super powered guns that are only suitable for the battle field. This is simply not true. The ar15 fires a .223 bullet that strikes its target with roughly 1200ft/lbs of force. The most popular hunting cartridge in America the 30/06 produces about 3000ft/lbs of force at the muzzle. As you can see the .223 is only medium to low power when compared to other traditional rifles. The media also led many to believe that the civilian ar15 is the same as the military's m16. However the ar15 only fires one bullet with each pull of the trigger while the m16 can be set to full auto. Semi automatic rifles have been around since the turn of the last century. In fact after wwII it was possible for the public to buy hundreds of thousands surplus semiautomatic rifles including the m1 garand and m1 carbine. There was no spike in violent crime after all these "assault rifles" flooded the streets. Furthermore, the ar15 is an incredibly accurate rifle that is used in hundreds of target matches each year. In fact it is such an excellent arm that many hunters are toting it in the field. In is currently the best selling rifle in America. Banning it would be a mistake and a violation of our second amendment rights. Connecticut has some of the toughest gun laws in the nation we do not need anymore. In order for me to purchase a pistol I must have passed an extensive background check and must undergo hands on training. More laws would just make it more difficult for law abiding citizens to practice their second amendment rights. Imagine if Dr. Petit was able to fend off those attackers with a firearm. I never want to be the victim of such a tragedy so I take steps to prevent anything like that from happening and one of them is keeping a gun for home defense.

I ask you to PLEASE refrain from passing any gun legislation that restricts my rights and does nothing to prevent crime. The assault rifle ban from 1994-2004 did absolutely nothing to prevent crime. Another or tougher state level ban will only hurt the rights of individuals and will do nothing to protect children. I ask you to PLEASE respect the Constitution and our Second Amendment right. NO NEW GUN LEGISLATION! Thank you for your time and I pray that you make the right choice.

No to HB5268, SB140,
SB122, and SB124!

Brian Coope
Somers, Connecticut