

To Committees on Gun Violence Prevention:

As a result of recent tragic events, it is apparent that something needs to be done about violent and aggressive crime in our society. The solution to these problems, however, is NOT to strip or further burden the law-abiding citizens of their 2nd Amendment rights. Any attempted measure of additional "assault weapons bans" (remember, Connecticut already has an "assault weapon ban") or restricting 11+ round magazines or random ill-thought-out taxes does nothing to deter or prevent gun violence. Gun violence is typically not committed with the dreaded "assault weapon" and furthermore, not by the law-abiding legal gun owners of Connecticut.

I do not support ANY legislation further restricting gun rights or nonsensical taxes or obtaining liability insurance for gun owners, or registries. Realistically and logically, none of these stop criminals or prevent violence, as criminals will do as they will to obtain illegal guns, knives, or any weapon to hurt the innocent.

We as a society do request that you take certain actions to keep us safe. We need secure schools. We need to recognize and find help for people with aggressive mental health issues. We need to be able to protect ourselves, through use of our 2nd Amendment right, both in our home and while out in public. We do not want to become a victim of a violent crime because our State Legislature decided that I can no longer use a certain type of gun that was previously legal. It is no right of the legislature to tell me that if 2 or 3 violent invaders break into my home at night and threaten horrific acts of violence on my family, that I can only deal with that situation with 10 rounds or less in my firearm.

Ideas put forth by some representatives for ammunition taxes and the need to carry liability insurance fail to prevent any violence, and furthermore, suggests that they are looking for some sort of monetary gain by taking advantage of the lawful citizen. To suggest these ideas on the back of a terrible tragedy in Newtown is truly preposterous and is not only insulting to lawful gun owners, but to gun violence victims as well.

Finally, I can agree to enforcing the laws we already have, and even completing more thorough background checks to make sure felons and the mentally ill are not allowed to have ANY weapon, but I will not support any blanket-legislation that predominately hurts the rights of the good citizens of Connecticut and bends the basic ideas of the Constitution to do so.

Regards,
Brian Kelly
Bristol, CT