

I have many comments but will try to be as brief as possible.

First my background; I am a US Army veteran, a parent of two children, a United States citizen, an employee of Wilton Public Schools, a CT licensed handgun carry permittee.

My thoughts and concerns center around the apparent rush to respond to senseless violence committed by unstable and/or criminal humans that take advantage of our unprotected citizens.

I feel there is no place in our society to have high magazine assault weapons designed specifically for the military to be in the hands of anyone other than our military personnel.

I feel that gun free zones are a terrible mistake if there is no reasonable way to protect our children. We have a policeman assigned to our school district while school is in session. One police officer covering five different schools at the same time hardly constitutes protection of the 4100 students in the district gun free zones. My solution is to work towards towns allowing certain trained individuals with up to date background checks to be able to carry concealed weapons where deemed necessary.

I am a firm believer that CT has gone backwards in identifying and helping our mentally ill residents. It is appalling the ratio of documented mentally unstable residents living in our prison facilities. Please work as hard to address the mental issues as diligently as the other issues.

To me the notion that creating more restrictive laws for the law abiding hunter, handgun carry permittee owner and law abiding citizen will do absolutely nothing to deter criminals from obtaining and using weapons they feel will do "maximum damage" to their intended targets.

I also feel that the general public is being misled by knee jerk responses fueled by the news media and politicians that are working to forward their own agendas.

Please act carefully and responsibly as you move forward in weighing all the options and recommendations that we "your constituents" are offering you.

My prayers are for all of you involved in making the correct decisions that will help us in our communities.

Respectfully,

Brian Reynolds
Naugatuck, CT

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