

Dear Senators & Representatives,

My name is Bruce Vincent Wagner and I am a resident of Cheshire, Connecticut. I am writing to you to voice my opposition to SB613, HB5950, SB601 and other similar legislation. I am sorry that I cannot attend the hearing in person.

Like millions of Americans, I am horrified and saddened by the senseless murders at Sandy Hook Elementary school in Newtown. I cannot begin to imagine the grief that the families of the children who were killed must be feeling. As a Connecticut citizen, I grieve with them. Our nation grieves with them.

I believe that restrictions on firearms ownership only restrict those who abide by the laws. Millions of gun owners are responsible, respected and trusted members of their communities. Millions of gun owners have killed no one. Millions of gun owners had no part in the Sandy Hook shooting. Millions of gun owners are just as horrified as the rest of the nation at the senseless butchery committed by a madman. This is not about owning a firearm to hunt or target shoot. Further restrictions only punish those of us who respect and obey the law and potentially put our lives, and the lives of our loved ones, in jeopardy. Violent felons and the mentally ill will remain undeterred and will continue to seek out and try to exploit situations where they believe they have an advantage (physical or numeric) with, or without, a firearm. Owning a firearm gives one who is at a disadvantage an opportunity to not be a victim. Our law enforcement agencies do a great job, but cannot be everywhere all the time. Need I remind you about the tragic Cheshire home invasion case? Please focus on enforcing the numerous gun laws that are already in place (including those that prevent criminals and the mentally ill from purchasing a firearm) and ensure that those who commit crimes are prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

As a law abiding, tax paying citizen of Connecticut who supports the 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment and has committed no crimes, I ask that you do not pass any further legislation that restricts my ability to protect and defend myself and those close to me.

Sincerely,

Bruce V. Wagner

Cheshire, CT

<http://www.nraila.org/gun-laws/armed-citizen.aspx>