

To whom it may concern,

I am writing because I believe gun laws should be strengthened in Connecticut. I understand that people have the right to protect themselves, but I don't think this right is as extensive as it has been portrayed by the existing laws.

I believe that as citizens, we can protect ourselves without military weapons. Those should be reserved for the military. Therefore, all weapons having military features should be banned and existing weapons defined as assault weapons should be destroyed, turned in to law enforcement or removed from the state. In addition, large capacity ammunition magazines of more than 7 rounds and existing magazines of more than 7 rounds should be destroyed, turned in to law enforcement, or removed from the state. It is not necessary for a regular citizen to have access to such fire power.

Not only should military weapons be eliminated, but for guns that are owned, a better registering and tracking system needs to be put in place. Gun owners need to be accountable for this possession because when in the wrong hands, a gun is a hazard to the general public. As a car needs to be registered, inspected, and insured, so should a gun. Permits and universal background checks should be required on ALL sales and transfers of guns, including long guns. Once a gun is registered, an annual fee and background check should be required for all handguns owned. Owners should also have to stipulate that the guns are still in their possession or explain how the gun was transferred to another person. A safety inspection every three years should also be required.

It is important that if a person is making the decision to engage in gun ownership then they take on an appropriate level of responsibility. Gun owners should be liable for negligent storage if any person gains access to firearms and injures himself or another person or causes damage to property. There should also be a ban on the right of way for transportation of firearms and ammunition bought over the Internet. Finally, ammunition sales should be taxed and a license/permit should be required to purchase any gun or ammunition.

I hope you take these ideas into consideration.

Sincerely,

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