

Good afternoon,

I am a citizen. I am a student. I am a business owner. I am a resident of Bethel, CT. Most importantly, I am an American. As an American, there are liberties that I value dearly.

Annually, over a million people uproot themselves from their homes abroad and come to the United States of America to reside here legally, so that they too can enjoy the liberties that all of you and I take for granted every day. Nearly three quarters of those immigrants take the extra steps to become citizens of this great country, so that they can participate in our democratic process. Countless soldiers physically fight for our freedoms here and abroad, too many of which never make it home to see their families again.

One of our liberties is currently in danger; those liberties promised to us in the second amendment of Our Constitution and section 15 of our State Constitution. As a citizen of The Constitution State, I would hope that our legislators would be doing everything in their power to protect Our State, Our People, Our Country and Our Federal and State Constitutions from threats.

When I saw our own Chris Murphy stand before our Country, lying about gun violence statistics, giving only enough context of a full story to make his figures look accurate and pulling on the heartstrings of our fellow Americans to push his agenda, I was truly disheartened. Here is a man that has sworn the following oath, but is trying to use his power to destroy one of our fundamental freedoms.

I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which I am about to enter: So help me God.

“I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic”

Doesn't that mean that our Senator has sworn to fight for, not only amendments 1 and 3 through 27, but number 2 as well?

A well regulated militia being necessary to the security of a free state, the right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed.

This amendment guarantees us the right to fight back if our very own government decides to turn on its heels and head in a direction that *The People* find to be unconstitutional. This amendment also carries a caveat that this right **“shall not be infringed.”**

There are far too many proposed bills on the table that do just that... infringe on our rights to bear arms so that we, *The People*, can protect our families, our friends, our neighbors and Our Country from those who intend to take away our freedom.

What I see are a swath of politicians attempting to make some sort of change, any change, and gun control appears to be an easy target. These changes will do nothing but satisfy their egos and satisfy their backing parties for their next campaign as proof that they did **“something.”** What I don't see are politicians working toward finding a root cause of the problems and fixing them there. You won't cure cancer by putting a band-aid on it, the same way you won't cure violent crimes by limiting magazine capacity, banning a particular rifle or taxing ammunition. This is the same as how drug abuse hasn't been eliminated by making them illegal and texting while driving hasn't stopped from legislation that has been introduced. I urge you all to do the right thing. Do your research, ask the difficult questions and don't stop until the answers make sense. Until then, leave our rights intact. Once you make just one change, you are headed down a slippery slope; one which will be extremely difficult to recover from.

Thank you for your time,

Charles Ruiz | Bethel, CT