

To The Gun Task Force committee members,

My Name is Chris Avery and I live in Norwich Connecticut. I am an avid collector of vintage and current firearms including military style rifles and magazines that hold up to 30 rounds.

I oppose any proposed gun related restrictions.

As members of a gun task force, I ask what your authority here is, and as law makers in general. The one and only talking point from policy makers regarding this, is that they respect the 2nd Amendment, but have the authority to put 'reasonable' restrictions on it. If true, that ability to define 'reasonable' reduces the 2nd Amendment from a Right to a privilege. Does it not? That implies an authority to restrict me to any degree you deem fit. That is not acceptable. That is an infringement. We are a nation of laws, not rulers of men.

In March of 2011 law abiding gun owners awoke to find their rights were under attack from Senator Looney, and his proposal for a gun magazine ban. The free people of Connecticut, who committed no crimes, armed themselves not with firearms, but with sound testimony and facts. Many appeared before the Legislative committee for a public hearing. If any of you on this committee were present that day, you would have to agree that the residents of Connecticut amassed a sounding defeat to such an infringement of liberty and freedom. Despite the horrific shooting in Newtown, the facts remain unchanged. Yet here we are again in defense, from a crime we did not commit, or laws not broken, to contemplate forfeiture of our personal rights and property. Any ban on magazine capacity is bad policy and an outright infringement on the Constitution.

The 2nd amendment has been the topic of many lately, and something that should guide you in your efforts in this committee. Despite many personal viewpoints and opinions, the Constitution was, and is, a rule book for government limits - not government expansion.

Evil is something that can not be legislated away. The good people of Connecticut recognize that, and hope that you consider the implications of restrictions that will apply to us, and not evil, in your proposal process.

Thank you for your time.

Chris Avery