

1/28/13

My name is Chris Kalkreuth of Middlefield. I am a lifelong resident of CT, long-time firearm owner, pistol permit holder, range safety officer, hunter and competitive shooter.

We all were devastated to learn of our tragedy on December 14th. My thoughts and prayers go out to everyone affected by this horrendous act. I like many others feel that indeed something must be done to mitigate the risk of such an event from recurring. I also realize that guns were not to blame for this tragedy but most likely negligence of a firearm owner and a mental health and criminal justice system that was powerless to protect society from someone we really needed protection from, regardless of what he had access to. There is a lot of legislation being proposed to accomplish the task of "making us safer" and as I've read through most of the proposed bills on the anti-gun side of things, none of them would have prevented this massacre. As such, you can expect that it won't stop a future tragedy. Let's suppose a popular modern sporting rifle had not been at the perpetrators disposal, but instead firearms of any other type. I submit that in such a vulnerable "gun free zone" as all of our public K-12's are the perpetrator would certainly have been able to wreak just as much havoc.

The sad truth is, when no one on site or anywhere near you for that matter, has the appropriate and equally powerful response to such a violent act, your only tools for survival are locked doors, fleeing for your life, a bit of luck and most tragically, your body as a shield to others. I personally find this unacceptable; you can't flee from a firearm. I don't care what its capabilities are or furthermore what it looks like. Make no mistake, magazine changes are easy operations to become proficient at and arguably more destructive arms could have been used that completely lack magazines. The main firearm used still required each shot be aimed and sent on its way with a deliberate and individual pull of the trigger. It wasn't a machine gun spraying bullets like their military counterparts. I want to caution you against further gun restriction as you'll reinforce the narrative that these proposed laws will in fact make us safer, they won't. Deranged people will always be around to challenge the systems we have in place and I suggest we look to revisions in that arena for the most effective means of accomplishing our goal of A Safer Connecticut.

Further restricting law abiding citizens in the types of arms they can possess as well as what, where and how ammunition can be purchased or insurance you must maintain, pays lip service to the serious task of keeping the most vulnerable among us safe. We've pretty much drawn the line already on weapons of mass effect. Contrary to popular belief fully automatic weapons, high caliber armor piercing rounds, bombs, grenades, rocket launchers, flame throwers, chemical weapons, tanks, and many other real weapons of war are indeed already heavily restricted at the Federal Level and have been for a very long time.

The truth is semi-automatic firearms that are functionally the same as the one used with great effect have been around since the early 1900's. Going after guns and magazines of this type include a large portion of many other lawfully owned firearms the citizens of CT rely on for their personal safety. What's really disappointing about all this talk is that criminals and deranged people do not care about the laws we pass. Senator Meyer agreed with me 2 years ago on SB 1094 in an email response to me where he said, "...this bill will not take large magazines out of the hands of criminals and so it unfairly applies to people like yourself who

use firearms in a recreational manner or for self-defense" as well as "...people who enjoy the recreation of firearm use or own them for self-defense would be prosecuted as felons, and that makes no sense at all." I couldn't agree with him more and it's not just magazines this is applicable to either.

This also undeniably tips the scale in the favor of those who wish to do us harm by not actually limiting their capabilities while absolutely limiting ours. We have a real chance to have an honest discussion about what will and won't have an impact on the safety of our children. Let's not push an agenda that gives people the illusion that things are safer by taking symbolic action rather than meaningful action. This will only shatter everyone's sense of security and destroy more lives when another such tragedy happens and I pray it never does.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chris Kalkreuth", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Christopher Kalkreuth

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