

Testimony of;
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Hello. My name is Colt Szczygiel. I'm a United States Marine. When I joined, I took an oath to defend the Constitution of the United States of America. My time in the Marine Corps finished in 2012, but I will always be a Marine. That is why I am here today, to defend our rights that are being threatened.

During my 8 years in the Marine Corps Infantry, I deployed to Iraq twice and spent almost 2 years of my life in combat. Often, people ask me, "How are things over there?" or "Are we making a difference?" My answer is simple. Regardless of the reason behind the U.S. involvement in Iraq, we were giving people freedom that they could not get without our help as Americans'! Some of my friends lost their lives doing so.

Now that I'm in civilian life, I'm lucky enough to have found a good job and own a home here in CT where I grew up. First thing I realized was how much harder it is to live in Connecticut than other parts of the country. Taxes are high, and regulations are out of control. But the one dearest to my heart is the right to defend myself. Connecticut has made it very hard to do this!

The current laws in place make it hard enough to obtain a firearm, dictate what type I can have, and what attachments can be on it. Bills being proposed now want to limit the amount of rounds I can have in my firearm, put an erroneous tax on ammunition and licensing so I can't afford it, and putting my name on a public list that will show who has a pistol permit in Connecticut as if I was a criminal.

All of these laws will affect gun violence. You're right! It will make violence go up! Look at statistics in Washington, DC alone after bans on guns. Criminals will have less fear of a good person confronting them to stop their crime. It will put households that choose not to own firearms on an invitation list for criminals to break into. The freedom to choose the amount of protection I want for my home and family will be taken away, because you think the amount of ammunition in my magazine is too much.

What happened to our freedom? I feel that I spent 2 years of my life fighting for another country's freedom, only to come home and have mine taken away! What happened to innocent until proven guilty? State Senator Edward Meyer said in 2011 I only need a magazine of more than ten rounds if I'm a criminal, and now is saying I shouldn't be able to own a firearm that can fire more than one shot. Last time I checked, I was not a criminal, and these bills are making me out to be one when I have done nothing wrong. It's not about what we as citizens need, rather our right to choose what we want in regards to everything, not just firearms and their parts.

Please take my words to heart, and educate yourself on the facts. Semper Fidelis.

Colt Szczygiel