

Good afternoon or evening distinguished Co-chairs and task force members...

My name is Craig Donacki...I am from Pawcatuck, CT.

I am here today to voice my opposition to the array of house and senate bills before the legislature that seek to impose further restrictions on law abiding gun owners, such as myself.

This is my first time testifying before any legislature or committee, and given recent tragic events in Newtown and the resultant reaction in Connecticut, and across the country, that is imminently threatening our freedoms, I felt strongly compelled to be here today.

I do not agree that restricting certain firearm types or magazine capacities, nor publishing gun owner addresses, or limiting ammunition purchases will result in any meaningful result towards achieving the goal of making children safer in school or reducing gun violence as a whole. Contrarily, I believe that such restrictions will only make criminals out of otherwise law abiding citizens and inhibit our ability to protect ourselves and those around us.

Those that are promoting further restrictions often use the word "common sense", but I fail to see the common sense in imposing laws that do not address the problem of VIOLENCE, and criminal behavior directly. I am of the opinion that firearms in competent, trained, and responsible hands of citizens are no more dangerous than any other object. The problem is not the OBJECT, it is the person and the behavior. Because terrorists flew airplanes into buildings on 9/11 didn't drive laws to ban airplanes, nor do we seek to impose limits on motor vehicles that go faster than 65 mph to curb the number of motor vehicle accident deaths each year, nor outlaw the sale of cigarettes because they cause Cancer... I could go on and on, and make many other comparisons, and surely those I've made already will be questioned and disputed relative to context...but I'm here to offer my perspective, which is no less valid than any other...

I believe we can find common ground on issues that will address the VIOLENCE, and BEHAVIOR, such as improvements to background checks, mental health services, and I scratch my head wondering why there is such astonishment at the suggestion that establishing infrastructure improvements in schools, or providing armed security services, or enabling faculty, that so desire to be armed, is any less logical, or less common sense, than our common expectation that when there's a bump in the night we call armed police to respond, or expect 20 year olds in the military to go forth into conflict, armed, defending our values and freedom...or the acceptance of the array of other armed security services that we all take for granted in common society.

It is my belief that we live in society based heavily on the right to bear arms and protect ourselves, and to infringe upon that any further will simply do harm...not good...

Again, I'm here to voice my opposition to any regulations that further limit gun ownership or impose further restrictions, and ask that you also oppose these radical and reactive proposals, and rather, focus on achieving meaningful results that will bring us together, rather than drive us apart... In closing, I wonder what it would be like to be here today in solidarity around real common sense measures, to solve the problem of gun violence...rather than testifying to preserve our rights to bear arms... I believe the problem is gun VIOLENCE, not guns...

Thank you for your time and consideration of my position. I can be reached for later comment or questions at cdonacki@hotmail.com, and I'm happy to answer any questions you may have now regarding my testimony...

Thank you...