

To whom it may concern,

myself and my entire family are 2nd amendment supporters, I would also like to add that we are law abiding citizens. This debate has become out of control with the proposed new gun laws being outrageous. All I ask is that you ban absolutely nothing in any way shape or form from law abiding citizens, we have done nothing wrong and should not lose freedoms that this wonderful state now enjoys. I feel because of the tragic Newtown shooting and others the debate is emotionally charged and rightly so, but emotion should be put aside and pure logic should be used when legislating. Myself my family and friends are single issue voters when it comes to this issue and we will not forget come election time. That being said I understand you feel you need to do something so some legislation I would support is as follows:

- 1) Mandatory background checks for all, except transfers to immediate family.
- 2) stiffen penalties for any crime committed with a firearm, that means no plea deals, no early release from prison, and lengthen the prison terms.
- 3) Identify people with mental illness and make sure they can not own a firearm, and receive help through a institution or medication.
- 4) mental health doctors should report patients that have a propensity for violence or have eluded to it.
- 5) Every gun owner must have their firearms locked up when they are not home, and must have their firearms locked up at all times if they have a mentally ill person living with them, unless the firearm is on their person or under their control (within their view at all times)
- 6) Allow concealed carry everywhere there is not already an armed presence by public employees, police stations, court houses, and capital building should be gun free only because public employees there are armed and can protect civilians immediately should the need arise.
- 7) Mandatory gun training and safe handling should be taught in schools from a young age.
- 8) violent video games and movies are protected under the 1st amendment, but parents that ignore the ratings system that say certain movies and video games are for adults above the age of 17 and allow their kids from an early age to watch and play these games should have to pay a substantial fine if caught.
- 9) Pass the castle doctrine so people can defend themselves in their own home when faced with a violent criminal that is intending harm, and not have to face felony charges and lawsuits. hopefully the Cheshire murders will let you see why this is important, that should never happen in a civilized community and citizens should be encouraged to have a means of defense in their home and be allowed to use it if necessary. they should not be required by law to attempt to flee their own residence in such a case they should be legally entitled to defend themselves.
- 10) registration of firearms is alright only if written into the law is a clause that states, registered firearms can never be confiscated under any circumstances, no matter what political party is in power, no matter what the majority of Connecticut citizens say, no matter what is politically correct at any given time, and no matter what tragedy occurs with a firearm that inflames public opinion at any given time. there should be no fee to register.

We live in a republic and the rights of the minority is protected from the majority. This should be kept in mind , just because there may be a majority of Connecticut citizens that don't own certain firearms and may not fully understand them and can be easily scared by media and politicians stating incorrect facts and scaring people does not mean that the rights and freedoms of the law abiding gun owners that do own certain firearms should be violated or lessened. we should place the blame of gun violence where it belongs, on the violent criminal who uses a

firearm for unlawful purposes, not on the gun itself or the law abiding gun owners that own them under the 2nd amendment. This is the constitution state and that should not be taken lightly, I expect my elected officials to fight for my rights and the constitution above anything else, even if it goes against what your party wants or what some in the public want. make know mistake banning the guns and magazines that are effective for defense is not right and unconstitutional. There is a reason law enforcement uses these firearms and these magazines, because they are the best tool for defending yourself, so the argument that know body needs these guns for defense or know body needs "large capacity" magazines and there only purpose is for mass killing is silly, they are needed by law abiding citizens for defense and sporting purposes because they are the best tool for it. Please consider my arguments before making rash decisions and laws. I thank you for your time in reading this.

sincerely, Curtiss