

Dear Members of the Gun Violence Task Force,

I write to you as a concerned voter and resident of the State of Connecticut. With roughly 80 bills before our state legislators its almost dizzying the pace at which we the people are trying to keep up. Many of these bill are on gun control and I would like to address a few of the more worrisome suggestions that have come up as well as a few of my general thoughts on gun control.

The first bill that is on my mind is one that suggests making it illegal to own what we call “high capacity magazines. First of all many of what are called HC magazines are in fact normal capacity for the firearm that they fit. Secondly it is said over and over again “ You don’t need 30 rounds to hunt deer.” well that is correct. The capacity of those magazines is in fact NOT for hunting it is for self defense or defense of others. In a mass shooting the size of your magazine often does not matter because these criminals choose places that they know they will meet little to no resistance, so they have all the time they need to reload their weapon. However in a self defense situation where you might face multiple aggressors the size of your magazine matters very much. Should you be outnumbered and help not likely to arrive for several minutes you MUST NOT be the first one to have to reload unless you have ended the threat to your own life or others. That is exactly why the police use the size magazines they do and they in fact often have a partner with them, while I on the other hand might well be on my own for five or more minutes. I ask that you consider what might be my fate against two or more armed armed aggressors if I have only ten rounds or less and the first shot or two does not stop them. What if like many police officers in the heat of self defense I miss? If I am the first to reload I will likely not make it until help arrives. Please do not take away even one round that might save my life.

Another set of bills would demand liability insurance and ensure that I cannot buy ammunition online and implement a tax on ammunition. These bills would not only make it more difficult for me to own a tool of self defense but also make it more difficult or even impossible to train with that tool. To force me to own insurance to own a tool to defend myself when I am of low income would make it difficult if not impossible to continue to own the best tools for my own self defense. To tax ammunition or make it so I cannot buy it in sufficient quantity for range training will make it hard for me to train myself for proficiency with the best tool for my self preservation. I ask that you not make it so that I cannot defend myself simply because I do not make enough money.

The final particular bill that I want to address is the bill that wishes to ban “assault weapons.” This term alone shows a misunderstanding of a common hunting rifle that is modified with a few cosmetic options that make it easier for someone short of stature and arm length to shoot. The simple addition of a pistol grip or adjustable stock only changes the cosmetics of the firearm not the operation. Simply put it just allows the firearm to be modified for a shorter individual to use it in my case. Though these commonly owned rifles have been used in several highly tragic mass shootings the weapon is not to blame. The fact is that if it was not that rifle it would have been

another firearm and if not that then another weapon. It is simply fact that if a person wished to do harm they shall do it no matter what. The people that committed these vile crimes though crazy were very intelligent and well planned. Had they not used these rifles it would have been some other method. Banning a law abiding person from owning these items will only disarm a people that have done nothing wrong and take away a great self defense option from honest citizens. Are you honestly saying that you do not trust us with these items even though many of us like myself are veterans whom you trusted to protect your liberty for the term of our military service?

To conclude my general thoughts on gun control are as follows: It DOES NOT WORK. Not a single law that has ever been written prevents crime. All the law does is tell good people what they already know not to do or makes criminal something that was not before and is not in and of itself dangerous or evil. The criminal by definition will ignore these laws and do as they please. So why then do we have them? Because it allows us to punish people who do break them. The law then does not stop criminals from committing the act it just allows us to punish them for it. So that being the case please ask if these laws will do anything to even slow violence in our great state let alone stop it. If the honest answer is no, why then make honest men and women criminals overnight when it will not enhance our safety, make us more free or put money in the pocket of the people?

I thank you for your time and urge you to look to both our state and federal constitutions as you vote on these laws. If those two documents do not give you the power to pass it and the law does not truly benefit the people please vote inline with the oath both you and I took to those great documents and vote no.

Sincerely,

Daniel J Lazzara of Bridgeport Connecticut, Veteran, Voter, and Patriot