

Members of the Gun Violence Prevention Working Group,

I am writing you today as a sportsman, law abiding gun owner, firearms instructor, and gun rights supporter.

Everyone will agree that we need to do something about gun violence it's how to do it that differs, I believe that most of the proposed gun control laws are emotional, feel good legislation that will do nothing to prevent a single violent crime, death. Any legislation that requires the criminals to comply with will not work, given the choice they will not honor a gun ban, register their illegal guns, perform a background check for ammo purchases, comply with magazine restrictions, and or give them up in a magazine confiscation they are criminals.

Instead of banning assault weapons which have been shown to be ineffective and put them in jail for using one in the commission of a violent crime, instead of a magazine ban or limitation on capacity that will endanger more lives than will save put them in jail for using a so called high capacity magazine in a violent crime. The difference is that it is not up to the criminal to comply with them they just go to jail. Require prosecutors to follow thru with existing gun laws.

There are 20,000 + gun laws on the books already that are not being enforced, we have tried banning guns based on looks and cosmetic features for 10 years nationally and nearly 20 years in CT, let's try enforcing the existing laws for a couple of years without plea bargains and dropped charges and compare the results.

Bills that I oppose are:

- **HB-5112 Disclosure of permit holders**

This bill will only endanger the lives of the people of CT this type of information was given out in NY and corrections officer are being threatened, house broken into for the guns and police officers home addresses given out in the name of public safety. This bill is reckless at best and deadly at worst.

- **HB-5268, SB-140 Insurance for gun owners and ammunition tax**
- **SB-1 protection of children, families and others**

This bill will do nothing to keep anyone safer as it requires the cooperation of criminals to comply with the law if passed.

- **SB-21 Bonds for eternal light**

This bill only addresses one kind of victims of violent crimes it should be for all violent crimes not just those from guns.

- **SB-42 criminal possession of ammunition**

This bill is unenforceable, will not prevent any crime as the criminal will mostly be in possession of an illegal gun so illegal ammunition is not a concern for them.

- **SB-122 restriction on gun use**

This bill will would endanger more lives than it would save. Having 1 round in a self defense situation would be fatal for anyone attempting protect themselves from someone who would not have only 1 round. Police officers have a hit ratio of around 20% using that stat. 1 in 5

rounds would hit the target, today attacks by multiple criminals, criminals using some type of body armor are getting more common only have 1 round jeopardizes the lives of 2.5 million people that use a firearm to prevent or stop an violent crime each year. This bill would also make instant criminals of law abiding citizens whose only crime is having a hobby.

- **SB-124 ban on magazine capacity**

This ban would create some of the same issues as stated above, I'm sure that there would be a law enforcement exemption for this ban. If the capacity is an issue why do the police need more than 10 rounds and why would the law abiding people of CT not deserve the same level of protection afforded to the police that arrive to photograph the crime scene. This bill gives the criminal an option not to obey there for it would not prevent crime. This has already been discussed after the Arizona shooting and the financial cost to the state in income, jobs, lawsuits and cost associated with confiscation which would costs in the 10s of millions for restitution.

Bills that I support:

HB-5179, HB-5269, HB-5176

I ask you support bills that do not rely on the criminals to comply as this will not prevent a single crime from occurring. Punish the criminals with the 20,000+ laws already on the books. I support mental health reform, and laws that may actually work not emotional feel good laws that only promote an agenda. Gun control does not make people safer, look at cities with complete bans and highly restrictive gun laws Chicago, DC, New Jersey, New York, California violent crime is out of control. Gun control gives criminals free reign to do as they please. Gun control is about control not safety.

I oppose any ban, registration or limitations to our freedoms as a free people. I ask you to honor your oath of office to uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States in its entirety. The 2nd Amendment is not about hunting, target shooting it's about self defense. Assault weapons are used in a small number of homicides each year, more people are killed by hammers, bats, swimming pools, knives and cars yet no one is going after them. Don't blame the tool blame the user.

Repeal the Gun Free Zone Act this alone may save more lives and cost nothing for enforcement.

Don't allow the media to release the name and photo of these mass murders it only creates a legacy in death that they could not achieve in life let them die as they lived unknown. The media raises these people up to the level of hero's and vilifies anyone that uses a gun to save a life.

Darren
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