

Attn: Gun Violence Work Group, (This is Public Testimony)

Dear Representatives and Senators of the Gun Violence Work Group:

I appreciate the opportunity to provide this public comment on the legislature's proposals affecting gun owners.

SB-1 Uncertain Content...catch all.

This catch-all bill worded with little to no detail is the typical "fill it up later" type proposal that proves most dangerous to the citizens of CT, and I oppose it for both its disingenuous wording and its clear intent. Couched in misleading "apple pie" wording, the proposal once again misses the mark and reveals the severe lack of common sense plaguing many legislators. Why is this so hard to understand...laws DO NOT stop tragedies or crime. If Sandy Hook demonstrated nothing else, it exposed the fact that laws are NOT a deterrent. The killer started by illegally acquiring and possessing a firearm (by means kept secret thus far by the State police). He then murdered an individual (mother), stole additional firearms, possessed them illegally, illegally entered a "gun-free" area, and tragically and illegally massacred 26 people. Breaking it down even finer, he violated at least 10 laws. In response, you speak of additional "common sense" laws ...how pathetically absurd. Criminals will obtain guns and ammunition illegally as they always have. Deranged individuals will not be deterred by laws regarding possession, safe storage, registration, etc. when murder and terrorism is their intent. To suggest otherwise is truly insane. The laws you propose will impose restrictions, regulations and intentional compliance traps on lawful citizens and legitimate gun owners who are not now, nor ever will be, a statistically measurable problem. While you consider this measure, the Courts and DOC are reducing the population of our prisons by releasing "non-violent" offenders...really? Non-violent? Someone needs to check the case files.

Does this nebulous catch all legislation reflect common sense....will its effects be measurable or even meaningful...will the costly implementation be successful...no, no, and no.

SB-21 Eternal Light

While the lives lost every year to gun violence are tragic, the percentage of them perpetrated by criminals ON criminals represents over 50% of the number. I am opposed to any remembrance or celebration of criminal acts, in whatever form. Gun violence is one of many causes of death in CT. Child abuse leading to fatalities strikes too often in CT and involves mostly babies and toddlers even younger than the victims of Sandy Hook. DUI deaths visit over 100 families EVERY year in CT. Is their loss any less important or less tragic than that from gun violence. Lives lost to neglect of the elderly and mentally infirmed are also a tragic reminder that, not only our families but also the State, have neglected important, ethical and moral responsibilities.

If the State feels compelled to place an eternal light for lives lost, please respect the losses every family has endured and not make it a spectacle for irrational political posturing. To suggest that "gun violence" is the most important failure of our society is and embarrassing reminder that politics all too often trumps responsibility and truth.

Thank you for your time and consideration

Respectfully submitted,

Darryl Conner

54 Laurel Leaf Dr.

Gales Ferry, CT 06335