

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.

HB5112 Re: Disclosure of Names

As I'm sure you are aware, the State of NY had a similar law. After names were published at least two home invasions occurred and many others are awaiting the same fate or worse. Names included law enforcement, Security, Judicial, those with protective orders and more. I oppose this legislation because its purpose is clearly to harass lawful, legitimate, permit holders who, by your requirements, have passed all the background checks and who have not committed crimes. Statistically over 75% of crimes in CT are committed by repeat offenders. Is the legislature willing to have published the names of all convicted violent offenders. Five times as many people die on CT highways, as a result of DUI EVERY year, as were killed at Sandy Hook. Are these tragedies any less painful or important? Publish the names of all those convicted of DUI, irrespective of whether they complete any subsequent offender treatment; over 50% of DUI accidents involve repeat offenders. I'd like to know what drunks are on my street when my children are walking out there. And, as a matter of fairness, if you believe this is not really a form of harassment, then please have the courtesy to publish the names and home addresses of all CT legislators.

HB5268 / SB-140 Re: Liability Insurance and Sales Tax

While I personally favor liability insurance for accidental injuries occurring on my property, I find it reprehensible to be ordered to obtain it by the State of CT BECAUSE I have firearms. My firearms are no more a hazard to anyone than your supply of liquor/wine, your gasoline can, your propane tank on your grill, your supply of prescription drugs, etc. Obtained by criminals, and used by them or others for illegal purposes, any of these objects represent a serious or fatal hazard to others. To target gun owners for this unprecedented requirement is harassment and I oppose this legislative proposal. Using Sandy Hook as an example, is your intent to make someone (or estate) liable for damages if someone enters your home, possibly murders you and/or your family, then steals your firearms and commits further crimes with them? This is certainly possible, especially since your fellow legislators are proposing to publically disclose the names of firearms owners and the location of their firearms. Seems to me that, should permittee names and addresses be published, the State of CT would be both responsible and liable for theft, injury and future damages issuing from the break-in.

Regarding taxation of ammunition, this type legislation is understandable considering the financial mess created by frivolous spending by the legislature over the past 20 years. However, used in this manner, specifically as a form of discriminatory penalty and harassment of legitimate gun owners (not criminals), it is both illogical and clearly misdirected. Legitimate firearms owners shoot for sport or competition and may log a thousand rounds a month in practice, competitions, and simply for sport. I challenge you to find a criminal that expends large amounts on ammunition for practice or competition. They save their ammunition for their criminal pursuits, and use very few bullets by comparison. If you need tax revenues this badly then the penalty tax would be better applied to the consumers of alcohol whose population include murderous DUI drivers. I'm sure all consumers of alcohol will understand the "common sense" need to pay an additional 50% in tax on all alcoholic beverages to deter drunk drivers.

Thank you for your time and consideration

Respectfully submitted,
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