

Members of the Committee:

Recognizing the tragedy of Newtown, it is important to remember that this event was caused by a person who took another's weapons (a.k.a. stealing) and used them for evil, but himself was neither an owner of guns, nor authorized to carry.

While not privy to all the bills being proposed for you to consider, of the ones that I have heard about, all seek to restrict or deny the public of the rights they now enjoy, as regards firearms. In this state, we currently have the most restrictive laws, along with Hawaii, to assure that only sane, stable persons can possess firearms. The only "law" that is missing is one punishing persons who have not complied with our existing laws and have stolen weapons.

It would appear that the stolen guns which were used in the Newtown shooting did not have trigger locks, or if they did, that the keys for same were readily available. You cannot fire a weapon with a trigger lock, as it blocks movement of the trigger, regardless of whether the weapon is loaded or not, with a magazine or not. When a trigger lock is in place, the only threat the gun has is to be used as a bat, or in the case of a handgun, a heavy steel thing. The absence or ready ability to remove a trigger lock must be considered as much a fault of the weapon owner as the stolen use of the weapon.

Understanding the pressures that you now face from many of those who testified before you, the letters and phone calls you must be receiving, and the clamor of the media, I recognize that there is heavy pressure to "do something." About you must recognize that whatever you do will have significant implications in Connecticut, and certainly implications in the Nation. Use your powers wisely! Do not punish the law-abiding citizen for complying with the laws of this state.

Thank you.

David M. Reed
32 Mountain View Road
Somers, Connecticut 06071
860-749-5364 or cell 860-965-6607