

My name is Dennis DeCarli, a resident of the town of Chester, Ct.

I am opposed to any form of gun control with the exception of those that would tighten background checks and the secure keeping of firearms.

The crafters of our Constitution created a well thought out document. It was designed to protect the people of this country and to assure its integrity for a long time. They foresaw the threats to a free society and acted to protect it from other countries and from it's own government.

With regard to gun control, Amendment II and Amendment IV are particularly relevant. For years I have thought that the NRA was unreasonable in not wanting to give an inch, however, when I see the array of bills being proposed, I begin to understand the old saying "give them an inch and they'll take a foot" is a real phenomenon.

Everyone knows about the second amendment and how it preserves the right to bear arms. Many of these proposed bills, however, appear to be setting the stage for a violation of the fourth amendment which has to do with people being secure in their "persons, houses, papers and effects against unreasonable searches and seizures shall not be violated".

We all understand the desire to do something to protect our children from madmen, but controlling guns (except for tightening background checks and the secure keeping of firearms ) is nothing more than feel-good legislation. We need more than symbolic gestures, especially when it affects such a large number of people in such a negative way. Even the proponents of a ban on assault weapons and large capacity magazines acknowledge that those proposals do nothing to prevent shootings. Their hope is that fewer people would be killed or injured per incident; not zero, but fewer. This seems to me as mis-directed attention.

I am not wise enough to know the answer to keeping children and others totally safe from madmen with guns, however, we cannot think clearly about this until we get rid of hysterics. There's not as much effort being placed on the mental health issues as I would like to see, but I also see it as a more difficult problem., The ability of identifying (rogue bears) might be impossible and probably illegal, and if you miss one, it can be the one that caused problems.

When it comes to imposing higher taxes on gun owners, or prospective gun owners, keep in mind that in addition to state sales tax, there is already an 11% federal excise tax on firearms and ammunition. That money comes back to the state to be used for wildlife management, research, firearm safety and land acquisition. This money benefits non-gun owners as well as gun owners.

I served as Deputy Commissioner under two Democratic Governors: The Honorable Ella Grasso and the Honorable William O'Neil. I know they would not have supported most of these gun bills. Therefore I do not believe it is a Democrat or Republican issue. I think it is an issue that can be resolved by clear thinking politicians who are elected by the public to represent their best interests; which is to uphold the law and the Constitution of the United States.

These proposed bills are an unnecessary burden and threat to innocent law abiding citizens who just happen to own guns. I believe many of these citizens feel that all of this could lead to gun confiscation, and who can assure them that it won't-----no one!

I appreciate the opportunity to express my thoughts to your committee and thank you for your attention to this matter.