

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have possessed a gun license for over 20 years. A serious injustice has happened and everyone feels that something has to change, but why does it always have to be against a person's right to bear arms? Is it, because there is "more changeable gun regulations, than in the mental health sector? Is it too difficult to change the mental health laws then the gun laws? Statistics prove that the majority of the mass shootings that happen are conducted by mentally impaired individuals. Vulnerabilities exist everywhere in our society and eliminating guns will result in people finding other means. More people have died from the flu this year than in Newtown. More people have died from knives by 50 times. I believe 500,000 responsible gun owners in CT. are the only people who are going to be affected by any changes in the gun laws. Ultimately, no one will be any safer. Acts of Violence will always continue to plague our society. I have two young children in Guilford's elementary school system and no matter what we do, they will always be vulnerable. We can't protect everybody, all the time. Be innovative and look to the mental health laws to see what changes can be made in that sector, which I believe can have a much greater impact on the safety of your constituents. It seems that everyone looks at the gun and not the trigger puller. Responsible gun owners don't do things like this. Mentally ill people do. Go after this obvious flaw in the system and make the changes that need to be made. So many people are taking medicines that have outrageous "possible side effects" b/c it's important for them to be independent or "mainstreamed". I believe that any new bill needs to start here first. Maybe the rights of the people who are mentally unstable need to be changed to protect the rights of those of us who are stable and contribute positively to society. Don't just point your finger where everyone else is, but be creative and look for a solution that is based on fact, not a wave of propaganda. "Rifles" kill so few people each year. Please, remember the 500,000 gun owners when you present or vote on a bill. Our rights should be protected. Our rights are going to be changed because of one bad apple that never should have had access to a gun. That doesn't seem right to me. I lost my cousin in 9-11, but did we reduce the rights of muslims to less than any other citizen in the country? No. Jump off this wave and blaze your own trail to a bill that everyone will support.

Thank You,

Gary Getrost