

Good afternoon,

I am taking the opportunity to share my opinions and/or suggestions regarding the upcoming hearings regarding new gun control legislation. I hope you will take the time to read them, and hopefully include them in your discussions.

As was everyone in our state, and across the country, I was appalled by the unprecedented mass killings in Sandy Hook on December 14th. As I expected, a movement immediately began to create stricter gun laws in our state. As a gun owner and sportsman in our state, but more importantly a father and grandfather, I can certainly understand the emotional impact in Hartford, and the General Assembly's ambitious plan to curb further violence.

As I have stated, I am a gun owner, and sporting shooter. I have the utmost respect for firearms, and the dangers they pose. Most sportsmen handle and respect these weapons as I do. We mandate this ourselves because we have respect for life and property. Unfortunately, there are others that do not follow the rules, or may not have the capacity to understand the rules. Social behavior certainly enters into this equation.

I am seeing many articles published in the media in printed and broadcast news. To my understanding, it is the honest firearm enthusiasts who are going to bear the brunt of the proposed legislation both nationally, and in Connecticut. We are not to blame for these tragedies, nor are the sporting goods stores that sell firearms. These problems begin in the home. Mental illness may be ignored or swept under the carpet. Depression, anxiety, bullying, physiological issues are all contributors. Honest law-abiding gun owners are not the problem.

But, and a big but, there are plans for more taxes, more restrictions, more laws for the police to enforce, etc., etc., etc. The list is long. Every time these issues are raised it is always the same people generating the rhetoric and the mandates. I haven't heard very much about support for the good guys. The liberal media needs to give them a fair shake too, and currently they are not.

My suggestions:

- Restrict sale of "assault weapons" to permit holders only
- I am in disagreement regarding the banning of 10+ round magazines in any type of firearm. It really doesn't serve a valid purpose, only that it will serve to help someone's anti-gun agenda. A 10 round magazine can be changed as fast as a 30 round magazine.
- Increase the cost of the CT Pistol Permit 20%
- Do not add additional taxes to ammo
- Strictly enforce all laws regarding firearm related crime, and prosecute to the fullest extent of the law. No exceptions.
- Create a database of all felons in our state with easy access for everyone for purposes of firearm sale or transfer.

- Create a database of all citizens with mental health history with easy access for everyone for purposes of firearm sale or transfer.
- Create a database of all violent offenders, including child abusers, child and spousal battery, and those known for trouble-making (for a better choice of words) with easy access for everyone for purposes of firearm sale or transfer.
- Require CT Motor Vehicle Licenses to identify "Right to Carry" individuals. This could help reduce opportunity for using fraudulent pistol permits.
- Begin meaningful restoration of our states mental health medicine and institutions. Think of the irony that Connecticut's largest mental health facility was once in Newtown, but closed because our Connecticut leaders deemed it as unnecessary.
- Consider armed guards in all public and private schools, and additionally recommend that all educators and school administrators are fully trained in the use of firearms.
- Please, please, Leave the good guys alone!!!!

This is my submission. Please review, and keep my thoughts in mind. Its time to stop playing politics, and address the real issues. I am not an owner of any assault style weapons, but I do feel a responsibility and obligation to voice my opinion in support of the Second Amendment. Please feel free to read my posts on Facebook for more on how I feel regarding the current frenzy of anti-gun activity.

Regards,
Howard Bradshaw
Derby, CT