

My name is Howard Koenig. I retired from the Army with 22 years of service and I also retired from the CT DMV as a Sgt with 35 years of service. I am a gun owner for forty years. I am totally against banning of guns or magazines. I do believe that it is true that if you outlaw guns, only outlaws will have guns. I do see a need for better control over who has access to guns. I believe that there are some things we can do other than banning guns due to the way they look.

1. Criminal penalty for anyone possessing ammunition if they can not legally own a gun.
2. Anyone with a valid and current gun permit, hunting license, security and armored car guards and other related occupations can purchase ammunition. Background checks for any other person to buy ammunition.
3. Guns and ammunition purchased on line must be delivered through a licensed dealer to insure that the transfer and possession are legal
4. Background checks for all gun purchase.
5. Better mental health cooperation to insure that guns are kept out of the wrong hands.
6. Enforce current gun laws

There is a big difference between military assault weapons and civilian versions of military style weapons. When you talk about an assault weapon ban, this is based upon the way a rifle looks. When is the last time someone was killed with a rifle with a bayonet on it? Why does a pistol grip on a rifle make it look evil? Telescopic stocks are very good to insure that the stock is the right length for the shooter. Folding stocks were used by the US Military and are valuable to a Military arms collector. The use of silencers is prohibited under federal law and there is no real need for threaded barrels.

Thirty years ago I purchased a rifle with two twenty round magazines. Twenty-five years ago I purchased a pistol with two fifteen round magazines and ten years ago I purchased a pistol with three thirteen round magazines. No one has ever been hurt by any weapon I owned. Why should something I have legally owned for ten to thirty years now be considered to be illegal to own? Who will compensate me for my loss if you ban them?

A recent article in the Hartford Courant stated that two men stole thirty-three guns and both received only probation. In other Hartford Courant articles, people who were convicted of gun crimes had the gun charges dropped as a matter of course in plea bargaining.

I am not the enemy. I am not a bad person. I am a person who enjoys target and competitive shooting. Please consider my suggestions for sensible gun reforms.

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