

I choose not to attend the hearing on Monday because I refuse to be publicly humiliated and labeled as an evil person simply because I happen to be a law-abiding citizen who opts to exercise his Second Amendment rights to protect himself. The use of metal detectors at this hearing, and none of the other hearings, is demonizing and demeaning.

At last count, there are at least 90 pieces of legislation proposed in the House and Senate having to do with guns. They range from ludicrous to sensible. Some present a danger to the citizens of the state like Mr. Dargan's threat to expose all citizens to home invasion and death by revealing who has chosen to protect themselves and who has not (HB-5112).

Then there is Mr. Meyer's SB-122. This bill bans all guns and magazines with a capacity greater than one round. The bill not only bans the sale of these devices, it prohibits the possession of them. If possession is unlawful then every gun owner in the state is instantly a criminal. Then, since criminals are in possession of contraband, the state must seize the contraband and jail the criminals.

The next point regarding SB-122 is that there are very few single round long guns and even fewer pistols in existence and no single round magazines. Passage of SB-122 effectively disarms all Connecticut citizens.

The final point when considering SB-122 and most of the other legislation is that with those laws in effect it would be impossible to defend against multiple home invaders. Consider that the homeowner would have to remove the gun from a lockbox, remove the trigger lock, obtain the single round of ammunition from the separate lockbox, load the gun with the single round and then meet the intruders.

When you have seconds, the police are minutes away.

Much of the proposed legislation is simple harassment and impediment to legal gun ownership. It is a favorite tactic of Mr. Looney. The intent is to make it so expensive and inconvenient to own a gun that people either could not afford to own any gun and/or would find it too much trouble. HB-5452 is particularly malicious, as it would force law-abiding citizens, at great expense, to compensate the victims of violent criminals when those citizens had nothing to do with the crime.

Somewhere in that mass of proposed legislation, there are some sensible measures. HB-5176, for example, would standardize the permit application process, something that is sorely needed. HB-5179 would simplify the background check process for the sale of long guns and the verification of permits. Any of the bills that would require including mental health history as part of the permit application process and background checks are sensible. The proposed study of the short and long-term affects of commonly prescribed psychotropic drugs is an excellent idea (HB-5377).

I think the major point I want to make is that the legislature, and the governor, are in a rush to judgment. Many of the legislators seem to be leveraging the Newtown incident to promote personal agendas. In the rush to judgment and in promoting those agendas, Sections 7 and 15, Article First, of the Connecticut constitution are in danger of virtual eradication as are the law-abiding citizens of the state.

Please, slow down this process so that cool logic and reason are used in determining what legislation is truly needed and what is not. Above all, do not make me defenseless, I cannot deal with four armed intruders with a bolt-action rifle or a single round pistol. No matter how accurate I might be with single round gun, time and numbers always win.

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