

Dear Gun violence prevention group

My name is Ian T. Cole, I am a resident of Ivoryton, CT. I write this testimony as a law-abiding gun owner in the State of Connecticut. As such, it is my belief that the right to bear arms, guaranteed under the Second Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, must be carefully guarded. I am adamantly opposed to the current firearm bills on the house floor including HB 1234 An Act Concerning Firearms. As a law abiding citizen of Connecticut, I am fearful that the acts of one evil person, will affect the lives of peaceable people who have done nothing wrong.

I think daily of the evils in CT such as Sandy Hook and the Petit family and fear that a day could come in CT where I would not be able to defend myself and my family from such atrocities, if my god given right to protect myself was stripped away. While I hold the police in the up most respect, when I think of these events, I consistently remember the saying "when you need the police the most they are just minutes away", WE ARE THE FIRST RESPONDERS!

People who wish to do harm and break the law will not care about registering their assault weapon or if their magazine is over 10 rounds or if they need liability insurance or if their rifle has 3 or 2 or 1 evil feature which makes their rifle a assault style weapon. Only the law abiding firearm owner will.

While I agree that a call to action is needed to help curb the violence in our society the recently proposed bills making their way through our legislature are missing the mark. They would do nothing but turn the law abiding firearm owner into lawbreakers, force people to forfeit legally purchased property or at best put undue burden(both financially and personally) to comply.

We should be concentrating on making our schools safer, working to better our care for the mentally ill and enforcing the laws that are already written.

The people of Ct who legally purchase and possess firearms are not the cause for concern. We have been vetted by law enforcement at both the state and federal level. Every time we purchase a firearm we go through a background check. We are forever vigilant to not run afoul of the law whenever we carry, transport or store our firearms for fear of breaking the law . You would be hard pressed to find a group of people in society who are more occupied with staying within the law as the legal firearm owner. The people of Connecticut deserve better than the "knee-jerk", reaction, that some of the proposed bills imply. I urge this committee and the legislature to act responsibly and carefully, in consideration of the rights of the citizens

Thank you for your time and consideration. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions

In closing, I offer the following two statements:

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