

I am writing to advocate for the adoption of legislation that can reduce gun violence without infringing upon any individual Second Amendment Rights. The Connecticut Conference of Municipalities issued recommendations on January 4, 2013 for legislative reform on the issue of gun safety and I urge the adoption of those recommendations.

The CCM recommendations would expand the definition of an assault weapon in Connecticut to conform to the definition under current California law, including limiting magazine capacity of rifles and handguns to no more than 10 bullets. These recommendations would also require a rifle permit for purchase of any long rifle by any owner not already in possession of an up-to-date handgun permit.

The additional CCM recommendations of requiring an updated background check to be completed on all firearm permit renewals, requiring a firearm permit for the purchase of ammunition and regulating online purchase and delivery of ammunition by banning the use of rights-of-way for the transportation of ammunition can only make our communities safer.

CCM also recommends a requirement of registration of all firearms and providing electronic access to a registered firearms database for law enforcement use only. These provisions would certainly provide the starting point of a sensible system to track all firearms in the state. This registry and database at least gives law enforcement a baseline of gun ownership in their communities. There is no infringement on Second Amendment rights by requiring this registration and there is no public dissemination, as it is limited to law enforcement only.

Lastly, the CCM recommendations make sensible provisions for the denial of a firearm permit to those individuals manifesting certain mental health conditions or who have threatened harm to themselves or others.

No legislation can prevent a re-occurrence of the tragic events of December 14, 2012. However, the fact remains that Adam Lanza used a weapon and ammunition that would have been banned under the CCM recommendations. There is no escaping that fact.

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