

James Miller

Ladies and Gentlemen of the General Assembly, my name is James Miller from Farmington Connecticut. I am a Vice President of a small business located in East Granby Connecticut. I wish to make my position clear, that I do not support any bans on so called "assault weapons" nor do I support any arbitrary restrictions on firearm magazine capacities.

I would like to share two stories with the committee today, one concerning gun safety. In 6th grade I attended Sacred Heart Catholic School in Bloomfield Connecticut. At the school they offered an NRA certified course which emphasized the safety and marksmanship aspects of firearms. The class was taught by Father Shaw, and began in the classroom, familiarizing us with the use of the rifles and their maintenance. The class culminated in live firing the rifles at the Bloomfield Game Club. The reason I bring up this story is to recognize that these lessons learned in 6th grade have stuck with me all these years and to emphasize the importance of gun safety. Even those who are not firearm owners, should be aware of firearm safety in the likely even they are to encounter a firearm within their lifetime. Instead of demonizing an inanimate object like firearms, and not holding those who misuse firearms accountable for their actions we should advocate firearm safety campaigns.

The second story I wish to share with you involves the equalizing force which firearms can provide to those who are smaller or weaker than the criminals who wish to do them wrong. When my youngest sister was in her late teen years, she was the victim of an attempted abduction in our family home. She and my mother were home; my mother was at the other end of the house sleeping. My sister had just stepped into the kitchen and was abruptly knocked to the ground and wrapped in a blanket and dragged, kicking and screaming toward the backdoor. She told me she knew if she had been taken out the door that was probably the last time anyone would have seen her. She eventually grabbed onto a door and made enough noise to scare the attacker off. Fortunately he was not as determined as some armed home invaders. The man was never identified but from this moment forward I realized that we, the victims are the first responders, not the police, who would have shown up far too late to have done any good.

I wish to close by reaffirming that I do not believe any further firearm restrictions would be successful in making us more safe, and if enacted would actually make citizens of Connecticut less safe. Please ensure that none of these bills make it beyond committee.

Thank you for your time,

James Miller