

Dear Connecticut Legislators,

My name is Jason Piccirillo. I am a Connecticut resident, a local business owner, a tax payer, and a legal firearms owner. I am writing you today in response to numerous gun control bills proposed. There are many which I oppose, however I do agree with some.

I completely agree that more needs to be done to keep firearms out of the wrong hands, but I disagree with the route that is being taken to accomplish this. Somewhere along the lines, firearms have gone from Americas past time, to Americas black sheep. I don't really know why or when exactly this turning point happened, but it saddens me to see this happening. I have been an avid sport shooter since my father bought me my first .22 when I was 4 years old. I also have been a hunter since I was 12. Firearms have always been a part of my life, and I believe they played a key roll in the man I am today. I can remember back when I received my first gun for Christmas. It was stored with a trigger lock on it, on a rack over my bed. I made sure it was cleaned, locked, and stored after every use. There was nothing more I looked forward to, than a day at the range with my father. He taught me the fundamentals of shooting, and more importantly, safety. He taught me not only how to use my gun, but to respect it, and the responsibility that came along with it. If my father was with us today, I believe he would agree, it wasn't about the gun or shooting, but about spending quality time with me, and teaching me respect and responsibility. As a father of two, I hope to have these same moments with my children.

As a father, and a husband, I also have a responsibility to protect my family from harm. As an American citizen, I have a guarantee that my right and ability to do so will never be taken away from me. Legislation that has recently been proposed, and in the case of New York, passed, limits my ability to defend my home and my family. No lawmaker can predict what events could occur and what means might be necessary. As a Cheshire resident, I look at the home invasion that occurred here in July 2007. If something like that were to happen in my house, to my family, would 10, or 7 rounds be enough to stop the threat? I cant answer that and I don't think any politician can either.

As a semiautomatic rifle owner, I enjoy these guns for hunting, as well as sport shooting. An " assault weapon" ban, which Connecticut already has implemented, has done and will continue to do nothing to curb gun violence. In 2011, out of 128 firearm related homicides, only one was committed with a rifle. There is no specification as to type. As you can see, rifles are not our issue. I am very much in support of any and all bills that increase punishment for illegal possession or use of any firearm. More needs to be done to remove illegal firearms from our street.

I thank you for your time, and I hope that you take my views into consideration.

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