

To whom it may concern,

The recent acts of violence in our society are tragic and have deeply saddened us all. The idea however of new legislature restricting the rights of honest, law abiding citizens, in my opinion is not the answer. Time and time again we have reacted as a society by enacting new laws in the pursuit of safety and security. At each of these conjunctures people seem to forget that those willing to act against us, as a society and a community, will simply defy these laws as it suits their needs. Any change made without clearly identifying the gains and detriments of either action or inaction, is absorbed and maintained solely by the honest law abiding citizens. Once again restricting our rights and personal freedoms with rapid undiscerning attempts to prevent further incidents.

My suggestions are to incorporate mental health records into background checks with a simple pass/fail system, keeping in mind the protection and confidentiality of medical records. Increase the focus on firearm education and safety training to reduce negligent incidents to owners. There should also be a standard of training and safety for firearm incident response in regards to emergency response personnel and school staff. Research should be done to evaluate the true effectiveness of 'gun free zones'.

Other things we need to evaluate are the potential economic impacts of implementing such laws. Many firearm and firearm related product businesses and factories reside in Connecticut. I fear that these laws would restrict the business of these companies forcing them to cut back on valuable jobs. This is something we cannot afford in the current economic climate.

I strongly discourage the implementation of any new laws on firearms for honest, law abiding citizens.

Thank you for your time.

-Jason Elliott-