

To whom it may concern,

I am a Connecticut resident, tax payer and voter. I have been employed full time in Connecticut since the age of 16 and became a home owner in 2008 at the age of 21. I am writing this testimony to express my opposition to the majority of the bills proposed such as a few of the following. I strongly oppose these bills as they will make citizens that legally own guns in to criminals, and I feel they portray gun owner as the problem not the perpetrators of such horrible violent crimes.

- HB-5268 AN ACT REQUIRING THE MAINTENANCE OF LIABILITY INSURANCE BY FIREARM OWNERS AND ESTABLISHING A SALES TAX ON AMMUNITION. This bill clearly labels all current gun owners as a liability, and insinuates that the mere fact they own guns is a danger to others. I find this personally offensive being a gun owner who exercises the highest level of firearms safety, as well as many of the good people I know that are also gun owners with the same ethics. The idea of taxing ammunition at such a rate to reduce violence is absurd and would only hurt the thousands of Connecticut residents that own and enjoy firearms legally.
- HB-5112 AN ACT CONCERNING THE DISCLOSURE OF THE NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF PERSONS HOLDING HANDGUN PERMITS. Doing this would lower law abiding gun owners to the level of sex offenders and criminals. I caution the legislation to remember the outrage generated from gun and non-gun owners alike after the journal news released the names of legal gun owners in the state of New York.
- SB-124 AN ACT BANNING LARGE CAPACITY AMMUNITION MAGAZINES. How many rounds a magazine should be allowed to hold has been debated in Connecticut before. There is no evidence linking the limited number of rounds a magazine can hold would reduce the amount of gun related violence. Secondly the majority of semiautomatic pistols and rifles legally purchased today come with magazines that hold more than 10 rounds. Thousands of legal gun owners possess these standard capacity magazines that are designed by and provided from the manufacturer. These magazines provide for those that use them for self-defense a means to manipulate the firearm less, avoiding the possibility of a malfunction during a stressful situation.
- SB-501 AN ACT CONCERNING THE BAN ON ASSAULT WEAPONS. Legislation proposed to ban semi-automatic sporting rifles in the interest of reducing violence is grossly misguided. The political term assault weapon defining a semiautomatic rifle with certain features similar to military rifles is misleading to the general public. The name assault weapon is cleverly similar to assault rifle which by definition is a rifle capable of select fire, meaning fully automatic or burst fire. The terms used to define these rifles seem to differ depending on who is using them. These semi-automatic rifles are owned by millions of civilians and law enforcement agencies across the US. When these rifles are in the hands of law enforcement they are called patrol rifles, and when in the hand of civilians they are considered assault weapons. It could be argued that the relentless demonizing of these firearms in the media is what drives these sick individuals to use them in mass murders. These rifles are used every day to protect the lives of countless people and provide safety and reliability for those that operate them.

We don't need more laws restricting firearms, we need to more aggressively prosecute the criminals that use and illegally possess firearms. Please do not allow those that choose to own firearms legally be labeled as criminals. I urge you to enforce the laws already on the books and consider passing bills that may actual help reduce violence in Connecticut. I support the following proposed bills. These could potentially keep repeat offenders off the street longer and take a no nonsense approach when charging those that commit crimes.

- HB-567 AN ACT INCREASING THE MINIMUM PENALTY FOR ILLEGALLY SELLING OR POSSESSING A FIREARM.
- SB-496 AN ACT PROHIBITING THE AWARD OF RISK REDUCTION CREDIT TOWARD A REDUCTION IN SENTENCE FOR A CRIME COMMITTED WITH A FIREARM.
- HB-5165 AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEFENSE OF A PERSON'S HOME, MOTOR VEHICLE OR BUSINESS.

- HB-5179 AN ACT CONCERNING ACCESS TO THE INTERACTIVE VOICE RESPONSE SYSTEM OF THE SPECIAL LICENSING AND FIREARMS UNIT OF THE DIVISION OF STATE POLICE.

Sincerely,
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