

Dear Committee Member:

One definition of insanity is to keep doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results. To continue with the status quo for our laws associated with guns and gun ownership, is insane. Every day there are issues of gun violence. Every day someone is losing their life. And almost every case, the person whose life is lost is NOT the gun owner.

I am desperately hoping that we can make changes to help alleviate this epidemic in our culture. I do not believe that any one of these suggestions will solve the issue entirely or immediately. That said we MUST do something now. We must start with steps that can lead us to a state (and country) where going to the movies, going to the mall, going to your school does not end with people dying.

The access to guns, the ease of purchasing guns, the ability to possess a gun capable of not only shooting a one, two, three bullets.....but one that can rapidly shoot MANY bullets in mere seconds is allowing anyone the possibility of harming multitudes of people. This is not what was intended by the rights of the Second Amendment. I am not suggesting taking away a person's right to bear arms but the intent was for defense...of one's self, of one's home. The gun and ammunition I am speaking of is for Offense. It should be strictly for the military, for our police. It was designed for war. By allowing these types of weapons into every day society we are allowing war amongst ourselves.

There are regulations these days for multitudes of things.....levels of chemicals in our drinking water, cars, cribs, Sudafed, etc. Each put in place to afford people protection from known dangers. Dangers that have been seen/witnessed, assessed and determined in the best interests of the public to put regulations in place. Dangers that have cost people their lives. The evidence is quite clear. Guns are dangerous. Guns kill despite what some will argue that it is people who kill. Yes, a gun cannot act alone but a person without a gun will not be able to inflict deadly harm on as many (or any people). The argument is reprehensible that someone will then use a hammer, a knife to do the same harm. I would prefer any one of us the opportunity to recover from an injury sustained from one of these items whose true purpose is not to kill. Let us remember the purpose of the gun is to end life.

Guns are intended to be weapons and inflict harm. There is no other purpose for them. I find it insane that they are not regulated the way other dangers

are. It is imperative that we look at the evidence.....we look at those killed.....albeit elementary school children, families, a husband or wife, a friend, people in their home, people in the wrong place at the wrong time.....and vow to make our state a better place for all to live. A state where families can raise their children and a state where its citizens can grow old. We cannot be a state where we accept the status quo because someone feels that the Second Amendment affords people the right to bear ANY weapon no matter what the repercussion could be.

I am seeking our representatives' help in making changes that will make us all safer. Some of my thoughts on ways to make an improvement, steps in the right direction, would be:

Background checking EVERY applicant for a gun

Close any and every potential gun law loophole

Banning of semi automatic weapons

Banning of high capacity magazines

Registration of all guns – just like we register our cars with periodic registration required.

No grandfathering of semi-automatic weapons.....they need to be removed from our homes and societies as they are weapons of war.

We all should have stepped forward before now to start this movement away from insanity. But I have to believe that it is not too late. While many lives have been lost, there are many more that we will be able to save and I ask your assistance in helping save these lives.

It is bad enough we must fight against people outside our borders that inflict terror and pain upon us. There is absolutely no reason within Connecticut (and the US) that we should be inflicting terror and pain upon ourselves. We are better than this.

Something must change. Please help Connecticut make this change. Uphold our citizens' right "of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness". Please keep in mind during your discussions and deliberations that each person's right "of life" should be taken as the ultimate right they are afforded.....a right that should come before each person's right "to bear arms".

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Acerra-Markey

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