

First I would like to thank you all for following the proper Legislative process and allowing for public hearings.

I have lived in Connecticut for 30 years, I am employed, I pay my taxes, I vote, I am a gun owner, and I consider myself a decent and law abiding citizen. December 14 was a tragedy of the largest magnitude and my heart lies with all of the parents, friends, and families impacted. I think it is important that we learn from this tragedy and strive in the future to keep the likes of it from happening again. With that said I think it is important to note that there is still no official police report released, so none of us have all the details of what happened on that horrible morning. I caution against any knee jerk legislation when we still do not have all the facts available for review. It is impossible to learn lessons from an event we have almost no detailed knowledge of. I think it fair that the state legislature wait for the State Police to finish their investigation before continuing any further so that the correct actions can be implemented to make another Sandy Hook event Less likely to happen.

Concerning proposed legislation I am of the opinion that most of it is arbitrary, misguided and solely targets law abiding citizens and the Connecticut and United States guaranteed constitutional rights. Any of these bills that seek to levy a tax or to increase fee's or require insurance are especially disproportionately aimed at those of lesser economic means and should not be considered. The right to bear arms is guaranteed to the rich and poor alike. I can guarantee you will never hear a criminal say, "No way am I doing that! My gun insurance premium would sky rocket!" I do not support an assault weapon ban as the appearance of a gun has nothing to do with its lethality. We have a ban in place that did not stop the Sandy Hook event from happening nor do I believe broadening the definition of an assault rifle will prevent another Sandy Hook event from happening. I do not support magazine capacity laws, as it is possible and probable that a person intent on doing harm can and will train themselves to switch magazines efficiently and quickly no matter what the capacity count. Magazine laws would only affect law abiding citizens and would leave them at a disadvantage in any confrontation with an armed criminal. I believe it important to mention that even if the above bills are passed into law, the magazines and rifles already owned would have to be grandfathered as legal to own. If you do not include this clause your ban will be considered ex post facto law and will be challenged for being unconstitutional. We should also abstain from enacting onerous laws that govern citizen's actions such as how many firearms they purchase in a month or a minimum distance from a domicile they can responsibly shoot on their own property. We must not trade liberty for perceived safety, as we will lose both in the trade.

I firmly believe that personal accountability and background checks in relation to firearms sales should be our main objective as well as an immediate repeal of public Gun Free zones including Public Schools and State Parks as these are target rich environments that seem to be exploited again and again by deranged individuals. I do not think any teacher should be forced to carry a weapon, but I see no problem if he/she has a desire to conceal carry a pistol to protect themselves and their students. I think improving education, and bringing prosperity back to our cities would save more lives and do more to curb gun violence in our state then all of your proposals combined.

Gun registration leads to gun confiscation as the darkest parts of history have shown. The second amendment to the constitution is part of the bill of rights. These are God given inalienable rights. These rights were written into law for the reason of self defense and to keep our great country free from tyranny. I sincerely hope that in your deliberations you remember the

oath's you took and your responsibility to uphold our constitutions. Thank you for your time and consideration.

”The balance of power is the scale of peace. The same balance would be preserved were all the world not destitute of arms, for all would be alike; but since some will not, others dare not lay them aside ... Horrid mischief would ensue were one half the world deprived of the use of them ... the weak will become prey to the strong.” ~Thomas Paine

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