

CT Public Hearing on Gun Violence 1/25/2013 Rm 2C LOB

Please consider my comments below when making recommendations on Gun Violence, I plan on attending the session on Friday.1/25.

The Gun lobbies continue their surge to beat back the movement that is pressing for real reform and action to stem the tide of gun mayhem and violence in this country. The paranoia of protecting 2nd amendment rights is all a smoke screen to keep the gun lobby (NRA) promoting gun and ammunition sales, which are accelerated after every tragedy involving assault weapons. The gun manufactures have had the upper hand in promoting the paranoia and hysteria over the need for more guns and to sidetrack any meaningful discussion on the root causes of gun violence and the danger that guns present in our current civilized society by waving the 2nd amendment flag anytime talk of gun control shows up. How often have we heard from them and their congressional puppets, after any horrific incident involving guns that, "... now is not the time to talk about gun control"? Well, tell that to all the families and victims of gun violence in this country. Estimates are that 80% of all gun related deaths worldwide occur in the US! Think of it, is this a #1 ranking that we are proud of?

It is time to stop playing politics with people's lives. Something must be done to stop the rampant and senseless violence that takes place everyday in this country that involves guns- all types of guns. How many lives are lost to suicide, crime, and random acts of violence because of guns? Thanks to the efforts of the NRA we will never know. They successfully sponsored legislation that prevents the ATF from publishing stats regarding gun violence. How many more innocent lives will be lost because our government failed to act to regulate and control weapons whose only purpose is to kill and injure **the most number of people in the shortest amount of time?**

You, as our elected leaders, have the right and duty to protect our lives and the lives of our children and grandchildren, yet you let the NRA dictate our nation's gun policy. Why do you allow this murder and mayhem to continue? The stance of the NRA is more guns, not less, is what is needed to protect us. This policy will only result in more killing and innocent lives lost. Who can tell who is a good guy with the gun, vs. the bad guy? Any event can cause a so called good guy to turn into one of the bad guys! Do something for all our sakes.

If you fail to act, then all those who refuse to enact more restrictive gun control laws and enforcement funding, should be required to personally visit each family who has a loved one who is a victim of gun violence. They should personally explain why they refused to take action to stop the senseless and needless deaths due to guns. At a conservative count that is 30,000 visits a year! There are too many lives lost to gun violence in Americas, cities, rural areas and homes due to this unfounded notion that "...guns don't kill people". Well let me say that this may be a simplistic catch phrase for gun supporters, but how many lives could be saved if there were no high capacity clips, if there were background checks on all weapons sold, if those buying ammo were required to show a license, if

sales of all assault weapons were banned, if all handguns were required to be registered? This would be just a start of laws to curtail the proliferation of guns and ammo in this country.

We should enact the proposals put forth by "Connecticut Against Gun Violence" to make us a safer society, among them are:

- Expand the state's existing ban on assault weapons, as others have already proposed, but require that "existing weapons defined as assault weapons be destroyed, turned in to law enforcement or removed from the state."

--Ban "large-capacity ammunition magazines" of more than seven rounds, and require that any existing ones containing more than that be destroyed, turned in, or removed from the state.

--Require permits and background checks on all sales and transfers of guns, including rifles.

--Require annual renewal for all pistol registrations — including an annual fee and background check.

--Restrict handgun purchases to one per person per month.

--Make gun owners liable for negligent storage if any person gains access to firearms and injures himself or another person, or causes damage to property. The violation would be a Class D felony.

Let's stop being led by gun manufactures and lobbyists who are powered by greed and spread seeds of fear and paranoia. Stop listening to these voices who represent such a small minority of Americans. The gun advocates have lots of money and voices to advocate their cause. But where are the voices of the 26 victims of Newtown, where are the voices of the other victims of gun violence? Listen to their silence, put yourself at Sandy Hook and hear their screams and cries for help! Who are you going to listen to, those voices powered by gun manufactures and lobbyists pushing for fewer controls and more guns, or the silence created when all the victims of gun violence are forever quieted and who look to you to be their voice?

How many lives does it take before we confront this disease that plagues our society? We know how many are lost each day due to our failure to control the use and abuse of guns.

Jim Probolus
33 Fairview St
Portland, CT 06480 jimcathy_pro@netzero.net