

My name is, Joan Maloney from Ansonia CT, and I oppose Senate Bill-613, An Act Concerning Gun Violence and House Bill 5950, An Act Reducing the Incidence of Gun Violence.

The proposed legislation is clearly an emotional, illogical, and rapid response to the tragedy that recently occurred in Newtown, CT.

Understanding emotions run high and the loss of a life (especially a child's) would naturally invoke rage and irrationality through the hearts of many, emotions cannot play into the government's job in passing laws. The citizens need a well thought and rational action to be made this cannot possibly be done in less than a month's time which is clear in the bills proposed.

The bills being introduced to legislation attack the law abiding citizens of America, specifically the gun owners, which are protected by the 2nd amendment of the United States Constitution. All purposed laws directly infringe the rights and restrict law abiding citizens.

Why do I keep saying law abiding citizens? The reason being that is all that these bills would affect, these bills would actually cause a rise in violent crime (as seen in the FBI UCR data charts 1994-2004: where gun crime heightened a significant amount). The goal here is to lower violent crime or more specifically homicide which is less than 1% of all violent crime (see chart below)

Why are we not focusing the efforts, time, and money of our government and citizens towards programs that would actually aide in lowering crime (non of which have been proposed or suggested)? Why are we attacking a system in which statically shows a decrease in gun crime by over 24% sense 1993 (FBI UCR DATA CHART 1999 report)? Better question why are we here revisiting a once failed attempt in lowering violent crime: homicide, gun related homicides (1994 ban which raised gun crime in the US)?

These are the questions both American citizens and all parties of government should be asking themselves! The Federal Bureau of Investigation specifically has a unit that job is to study both homicides and violent crime. This division is the Behavioral Analysis Unit, who also aides in the construct the statistics both I and biased politicians are using to prove points on how ineffective or affective gun control is. They study mass murders, serial homicides, and a various amount of serial crimes. Why have we not heard affective ways to stop crime from them? Perhaps it is because it does not fit the political agenda set forth in the past 15 years to disarm law abiding citizens.

As a promising student and hopeful one day member of this team I have studied and majoring in Criminal Justice and Criminal Psychology. All of which gives me a perspective of what I am talking about. The five reasons a mass murderer chooses their actions are as follows: Revenge, Recognition, Power, Profit, or Terror. This being said why has the legislation not questioned the rise in mass murders sense 1990, given that society has some of the strictest gun controls in history of the United States? Here is an easy answer: Media! Not the violence in TV or the news, but the way they glorify these killers. How many of you here today can name at least 5 victims from the two most recent tragedies: Sandy Hook, Aurora? Not many of you if any could however everyone here today for the most part knows the name of the mass murderers. To be frank that is giving these individuals exactly what they are setting out to do. Power, Recognition, Revenge, Terror those are what these twisted individuals want and set out to accomplish. In light of even the most recent or past events media has glorified these individuals, during the time of the tragedy there were already undocumented rumors of the shooter and within minutes fake social profiles, support pages, and conspiracy theories began. THIS WAS DURING THE INVESTIGATION, THE DAY OF THE CRIME! It is no wonder we are seeing a rise in this specific type of crime, in a homicide (of normal proportion the killers name is not to be released until the time of the closing of the investigation). These individuals are profiled to be antisocial, depressed, and seeking attention and recognition. So when they see a 24 hour autobiography about the killer of innocent children or victims in a movie theater, they in theory think "How can I top this, and how can I be that person."

So why are guns being ridiculed and why are legally owned guns being targeted? The guns used in the tragedy (All information given has been released by Detective Vale not the media's guess what game) were stolen; a person was killed to obtain both the weapons and vehicle to commit said crime. The maximum sentence for obtaining or theft of a weapon (as posted in any gun store) is 10 years. TEN YEARS!?!? The only reason in my mind a person obtains an illegal weapon is because they plan to use that in an illegal crime, which most likely is murder. Less than 1% of the gun crime is committed by a legally obtained gun. Bare in mind that purchasing a long gun or a rifle privately is not regulated and if a felon purchases that gun it is not a legally obtained weapon and is a felony.

So where, would the efforts of our legislation and government be better served?

To start the age of purchasing any gun (rifle, handgun, ect...) should be raised to 21, statistically an adolescent mind is still reactive and hormonal at the age of 18-20, with that the responsibility of a firearm should only be used under strict supervision of an adult. Illegally obtaining (theft) a gun should hold the same punishment as attempted homicide 25 years to life. If an illegal gun is used in a homicide that individual should receive a life sentence without eligibility of parole. As Merton's theory states in order to prevent crime the punishment must out way the crime. Ammunition should only be sold to individuals holding a permit for a gun. Private Sale of long guns and firearms should have rules and procedures whereas now all you need is a bill of sale (no ID, no background check, and no transfer). All guns should require some sort of license to purchase (i.e. pistol permit) there should be some sort of permit required to purchase any gun including a hunting rifle or a shotgun. The style of a weapon does not make it any more dangerous than a 38 special revolver; the banning of guns solely based on their looks is redundant. Calling them "assault"

weapons to trick unknowing citizens into thinking they are military machine guns (banned in 1986 by the Regan Administration) is just a cheap political tactic that people are widely becoming aware of.

Secondly our focus should go beyond gun control laws and look at how exactly violent crime can be reduced. Media should never be allowed to release the name of a killer during an open investigation and restrictions need to be made as to the use of that information is transmitted to citizens. They should not be allowed to host a 24 – 72 hour autobiography on a killer, this should be limited to federal and law enforcement agencies education only. The reduction in making these psychopaths infamous (a term used by the media in many documentaries and new casts: Ted Bundy, James Holmes, Charles Manson, and now Adam Lanza –whose case is currently still OPEN!) would limit the thrill for the future serial, mass, or spree killers out there as they do often times (9/10) for the fame and recognition. Reference: Happy Face Killer (contacted media, police, and left a happy face at the scene of his crimes). The reduction in recognition would directly result in the reduction in crime and is something the government has never even touched due to the 1st amendment; however law officials have no issue infringing the rights of gun owners which is a direct and outright disregard to the 2nd amendment.

Thirdly the mental health care in this system needs to be addressed as well as adding buffer programs to young children. In many proven criminal psychological studies the easiest way to prevent an at risk person from committing a crime is to intercede as early as possible (before said person takes part in delinquent or criminal behavior). How can the government do that unless they are physic? Here's how:

Removing the negative stipulation on mental illness (no if you are mentally ill it does not mean you are going to be the next John Gancy, nor does it mean every person with schizophrenia is going to be the next serial killer). Statistically the mentally ill do not commit crimes and if they do it is often coupled with many other risk factors.

Removing this stipulation will give the people with a sickness the comfort to seek professional help. Also by restoring mental health facilities and removing the 30 day max treatment for people without health care or state health care will allow for people to get the help they or their love one may need. Next just as children are required to get vaccinations they should also have to undergo a mandatory psychological

evaluation, this will prevent violent and at risk children from slipping through the cracks and possibly becoming violent criminals, and will also cut down the number of abused or at risk children in a bad situation and allow for a buffer to step in before that child becomes resentful, disconnected, or violent themselves.

Teachers should be required to have a psychology background and should be mandated to attend seminars hosted by the BAU: child crime division and other seminars currently only open to law enforcement. There should be a psychologist in every school (not just the ones with a high budget) and procedures and programs in place to help at-risk, troubled, or violent children.

These are just a few ways to illustrate legislation that would directly lower crime as a unit and a whole. There are many more common sense solutions to be made and many more areas of the criminal justice system that need to be addressed. However none of these include banning more weapons out of the hands of law abiding citizens. I for one worked very hard for my right to bear arms and follow every letter of the law.

I do this because I love my hobby (recreational shooting and sport shooting) and would never in a million years want to jeopardize my right or my investment. Many other law abiding gun owners feel the same. The gun community consists of some of the most respectful, honest, hard working people I have had the pleasure of coming across.

We were all heartbroken over the tragedy that transpired and if loosing our weapons meant the end of crime forever I am sure no one would hesitate, however that is a fantasy world. Criminals are criminals for a reason, Adam Lanza stole the lives of 27 people for selfish glory hound reasons yet to be known, law abiding citizens should not have to stand in a category and answer for such a sick psychopaths actions.

Criminals will obtain, keep, and continue to have their guns regardless of any legislation set forth and disarming citizens not only is against the second amendment, but also leaves them vulnerable to crime. Hence the rises in gun crime during the 1994 weapons ban. We as gun owners have seen senseless legislation passed and failed, we have allowed for useless cosmetic bans to go through for the sake of people's comfort and being misinformed. It is time for everyone as a whole to realize law abiding gun owners are not the issue and start getting down to the true problems and addressing them.

Councilmen and women if your political agenda is to be the face for having an effect in lowering violent crime then I urge you all to not take lightly of what is said here today. Stand up and make a difference and stop falling into the easy way out or the cop out " Look we tried to stop gun crime it failed", because in reality all the proposed bills presented both by State and Federally have nothing to do with lowering crime nor will it effect the United States in a positive manner. We are a nation founded on our rights to bear arms as civilians it is time we stop infringing on those rights and do something productive in for our citizens. Thank you for your time below I have listed numerous sources that I urge you all too seriously look at and also some contact information for Robert Ressler and the BAU. Perhaps to make a difference knowledge and learning is the key.

References, Books to Read, Contact Information:

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My contact information for further discussion or questions:

Joan Maloney

Email: [jomaloneyushc@gmail.com](mailto:jomaloneyushc@gmail.com)

Phone:2039743699