

There are far too many bills proposed for this single public hearing. That is my issue.

I believe most everyone here is sincere and supporting what they consider to be necessary legislative actions in response to the tragedy last month in Newtown. While devastated, we cannot rush to legislate in an attempt to prevent another tragedy. Legislation is not always the best solution to the problem of violence. History teaches us that, increased numbers of gun laws result in an increase in violent crimes.

What I am here to say is that what we may think we want, in this moment of despair might not be the appropriate, most effective or most importantly, constitutionally legal path to follow.

It is not proper for this legislature, our elected officials to be in such a panic mode. Nearly 100 new bills affecting our ability to bear arms to protect ourselves have been introduced since December? We are looking for leadership, not opportunism. I am disappointed by this frenzied reaction from responsible duly elected representatives of ALL the people of CT. I am abhorred that so many of you would conduct yourselves in such a manner.

Fiscal matters job losses and a firm budget for CT and the country are extremely important for us at this time. They are the "emergency" concerns. Where are the impassioned speeches about those issues? It is your job to address them, not to play to the media and ideological fanatics on both sides of this issue. After all guns and gun rights should not be under attack here. Those rights are and will remain a Constitutional issue. Criminals do not follow laws, they have guns; they commit crimes. Going after the criminals is the appropriate action now, not legislating away the rights of law-abiding citizens. Why do you think you possess the all-knowing wisdom to determine what I NEED for my protection? How many of you have ever been in a situation that required you to take action to protect yourself and your family from a violent crime? I doubt many of you. I have, I know what it took. My wife and I have been trained and we know what we need to survive an event like that. You don't. It is totally our responsibility, not yours.

The greater issues were here on December 13<sup>th</sup>. Too many of you were ducking them then and continue to avoid them now. Start doing the hard work you were elected to carry out and please maintain your Oaths to support & defend our state and federal Constitutions. Both are very clear on this issue of citizens bearing arms, especially the CT State Constitution, Article First, Section 15 – Every citizen has a right to bear arms in defense of himself and the state. As far as I know there is no NEED requirement in there! Our Bill of Rights states that the right to bear arms is NECESSARY to the security of a free state. There are no requisites for style or capacity or any exclusion for specific weapons or ammunition; even if someone comes up with a scary and totally inappropriate name to describe them.

The media frenzy surrounding the tragedies at Sandy Hook and the Aurora movie theater has made cultural icons of the mentally deranged murderers who perpetrated those crimes. The resulting legislative circus is providing a platform for criminals like them to do more damage to our national fiber and proud constitutional heritage than any attack by a foreign enemy. Please remember, law abiding people did not commit these crimes, mentally deranged criminals did and regrettably, they probably will again!

Other than the events surrounding the shooting of Representative Gabby Gifford, every mass murder of 3 or more victims in this country since 1950 has taken place in a gun restricted or gun free zone. Burglaries occur in this country on the average of every 14 to 15 seconds. . Please address these startling truths, not just your uninformed biased ideologies.

These events must be studied after the actual facts are known: then potential solutions are addressed. Legal rights of citizens, granted by our Constitutions must also be measured, not violated. Again, try to remember who we were as a state on December 13<sup>th</sup>. You have no authority to penalize law abiding citizens because of the heinous acts of 2 or 3 psychotic killers.

You also have no authority to determine my personal need for the protection of my life, family and possessions. Do you recall the frenzy regarding SUV's after a few horrific accidents on our highways? Most of the same zealots came out in the media clamoring for a ban on those "killer vehicles" I remember hearing so many times, "You do not NEED such a big, gas guzzling vehicle, you are putting all the owners of small cars in danger." Then there is my favorite regarding 32oz drinks in NY City. My legal personal choices for personal safety are not your concern and are none of your business.

Thank you all for your time and consideration.