

1/27/2013

Members of the Bi-Partisan Connecticut Gun Violence Prevention and Child Safety Commission,

My name is John Fernandez, I am a college educated IT Infrastructure Architect, tax payer, voter, and American. I am writing this testimony in regards to the recent onslaught of proposed anti-gun legislation. I am, and have always been a law abiding gun owner. It is in my estimation that all of the proposed firearms legislation will do nothing to prevent such tragedies as have occurred in the Sandy Hook Massacre on December 14th of last year.

Connecticut has some of the strongest firearm legislation in the United States as it is already. I have happily complied with all of the "red tape" I have had to go through to be able to exercise an American Civil Right. I have submitted to fingerprinting, several background checks, and have also had letters of recommendation submitted by my peers. In addition to the fore mentioned, I am subjected to a federal background check every time I purchase a new firearm in Connecticut. I secure my firearms in a safe when they are not in use, and I take great care to make sure they do not end up in the hands of criminal.

I am very concerned about all the talk about particular firearms have no sporting or hunting purposes. The 2nd Amendment in the US Constitution was not written to protect hunters, or sportsmen's rights. The 2nd Amendment was written by the founding fathers as a means of last defense against a tyrannical government. It also guarantees the right to self defense as affirmed by the Supreme Court of the United States in 2010.

Limiting the capacities of magazines to an arbitrary number of 10 or even more absurdly 7 as NY State has no impact on crime. All it will do is limit a citizens self defense capacity. According to the US Department of Justice, police officers in Las Vegas hit their intended target an average of 46.2% of the time. A citizen, would be so lucky to have such accuracy in a self defense situation. Let's say a mother defending her family is limited to a 7 or 10 round capacity firearm, and only hit their target 30% of the time, that would mean either 2 or 3 bullets will hit the aggressor. It has been shown time and time again, that many people can continue to fight after being hit multiple times.

Also, I personally participate in several "gun sports" including Competitive Plate Shooting and IDPA matches. Both of these require the use of standard capacity magazines which hold more than 10 rounds of ammunition. Another side effect of this legislation is that many commonly owned firearms will not accept 7 or 10 round magazines leaving countless legally owned firearms in this state effectively useless.

In regards to the proposed legislation which would ban the popular AR-15 rifle and other sporting rifles (assault weapon does not apply to these firearms as they do not have select fire or automatic capabilities), this is a very slippery slope. These firearms, which are rarely used in the commission of a crime are functionally no different from many handguns, shotguns, and hunting rifles. To ban them because they are black or scary looking is ludicrous. Let's propose that a ban goes into effect, and magically all "assault weapons" go away. The next time a mad man gets his hands on hunting rifle and murders innocent people there will be calls to ban hunting rifles. I consider a ban of any semi-automatic firearms to be in violation of both the State of Connecticut and United States Constitutions. I would

even go so far as to recommend repeal of the existing ban which is in place today. These firearms are excellent self defense in ones home, especially to those of us who cannot afford the process to obtain a CT State Pistol and Revolver Permit.

I am also opposed to the proposed tax on ammunition sales and the restriction on internet ammunition sales. I have very limited disposable income as it is, and this would make shooting a passion of mine prohibitively expensive. This is unfair to the middle-class population and make it's significantly harder to exercise one's rights.

Thank you for you time and consideration,

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Please feel to contact me regarding any sources or questions about this testimony.