

To all Committee Members:

As a father of 3 children, like all residents, I am repulsed by the tragedy at Newtown and would like this to never happen again.

I am also a gun owner and for the past 10 years I have participated and continue to participate in defensive firearms training for handguns, rifles, and shotguns.

I am disturbed that this legislature is debating more draconian gun laws as Connecticut is already one of the most restrictive in the nation.

Do you not believe that the mental health concerns should be first and foremost on the agenda? Equally disturbing is the knowledge that our legislature voted down SB452 in March of 2012. We are only one of 6 states in the country that does not have an Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT) program for dangerously or potentially dangerous mentally ill patients, which would have been provided for in that bill.

This lack of an AOT program should be emphasized more at the legislature and media level. This may have prevented the Newtown tragedy more so than any further gun restrictions would.

In training with police officers, I have learned that High Cap magazines (more than 10 rounds) are often needed in the event of multiple attackers for self defense.

Many current gun owners possess rifles and handguns that came with only high capacity magazines.

To ban and confiscate these products would be a violation of the 2nd, 5th, and 14th amendments to the Constitution.

This would cause the state of Connecticut more issues legally, and simultaneously do nothing to solve the problem at hand. The focus should be on mental health concerns of individuals.

I hope you and your committee looks at this dilemma objectively, and do not act in an emotional manner. Passing rash, hasty legislation without first considering both the constitutional and legal ramifications is irresponsible and dangerous. Quick and early intervention to provide help for the mentally ill is the only true fix to prevent such a deranged killer.

Thank You,

John L. Pascarella

415 Hillfield Rd.

Hamden, Ct.

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