

To whom it concerns,

I am writing to share my opinion about stricted gun regulations and our 2nd amendment right.

The 2nd amendment clearly states that the right to own and bear arms shall not be infringed. Any attempt to limit the type of firearm or size of a magazine is an infringement on this right. Additionally attempts to force people to buy some type of insurance is another infringement. I am also against a requirement to register all firearms owned as it can only be construed as the first step in gathering the necessary information to carry out a later seizure of those firearms.

There are currently more than enough regulations regarding gun ownership. Law abiding citizens have complied with the reasonable requests made of them. The true problem is the criminal element and their obvious disregard for laws and regulations. What needs to be done is stricter penalties that are actually enforced by the justice system. I spent 23 years in law enforcement and know first hand how often criminal charges were dropped and/or plea bargained down because the prosecutors were more concerned with a quick easy win than seeing justice done.

While I cannot speak for all supporters of the 2nd amendment I would like to add the following thoughts. Connecticut has a very good system in place to obtain a pistol permit. What needs to be done is to develop a federal level minimum standard so that all states are conducting proper checks. I believe that mental health workers should be mandated to report patients that have indicated their intent to harm themselves and/or others. This mandate should carry both civil and criminal penalties for failure to follow.

If people were to honestly look at the deaths by firearms they would realize they are dwarfed by those from motor vehicle accidents. Diane Feinstein commented that since the "assault weapon" ban expired in 2004 350 people have been killed by those weapons. While even one person is too many, the facts show that this percentage is extremely low and in no way supports her claims that a new ban will solve all the problems. The only thing accomplished by a new gun ban is opening the door to further attempts to erode the 2nd amendment. If this is your actual intent, then be honest about it and simply try and get the amendment repealed.

[John Sipper](#)