

January 28, 2013

RE: Gun Violence Prevention

Gun Violence Prevention Working Group
Legislative Office Building
Room 2C
Hartford, CT 06106-1591

Dear Members of the Gun Violence Prevention Working Group,

I thank you for the opportunity to speak today. My name is Johnny Carrier, I live in Farmington, CT, and I would like to congratulate the governor and this legislature for not curbing our first amendment, like our neighboring state to the west, and having this discussion with the public.

I am speaking today in opposition to a number of bills presented which would limit magazine capacity, restrict or ban the AR-15 sporting Rifle, unfairly tax ammunition or require certain liability insurance for legal firearms owners. I am in favor of enforcing existing laws, having thorough background checks, and keeping strict penalties for criminals obtaining or misusing firearms in any manner. I am sure that much testimony today will touch on examples, and specifics but I would like to discuss two points.

First, I am concerned about any bills making it to law before, we the public, has all the correct information. It has been said that we may not have the CT State Police report until June, so what we have so far is the result of a horrendous tragedy, and a few ridiculous conspiracy theories. As anyone that watched the reporting in the following days of the attack knows, that there was loads of misinformation, reports of other shooters, a person apprehended in the woods near school grounds, the weaponry involved, who worked where, etc. I understand peoples urge to find a solution, and try to understand how something like this could happen, but the truth is that we still know very little.

Second, over the last month I have witnessed media, social media, and people vilify others like me, who are avid gun collectors, shooters, hunters and believers in the 2nd Amendment. I would like to share some information that will personalize this some, and show that we gun owners are like everyone else. I own many firearms of various shapes, sizes, and design. I own firearms that are

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heavily regulated by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. I shoot often; I have done it since the age of seven, and plan on sharing this with my 4 and 2 year old daughters and soon to be addition to my family. I practice my right to carry, push firearm safety, and hope that I never be put in a situation that requires me to use one. I am also a graduate of the School of Engineering from our great University of Connecticut. I sit on my local zoning board and give back to the community. I have coached my mother's deck hockey team along with many others. I have been the recipient of four childhood home invasions, and received a phone call from my wife as she entered our home one afternoon, to an intruder looking to take from us. I count my blessings that she was not injured. I consider myself a good standing member of my community, and fear that although well intentioned, these proposals will do more to limit the rights of law abiding citizens like myself, any very little to avoid or limit tragedies such as Sandy Hook in keeping firearms out of the hands of criminals.

I ask you today to let the State police report be published, and let the misinformation be corrected, so that educated decisions could be made. Thank you again, and I would answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Johnny Carrier