

To the Working Committee,

I do not believe that new gun and ammunition laws will be the answer to stopping further violence in CT. or the U.S. for that matter. CT. has a background check system that works well. Access to firearms has been restricted more in recent years than ever before yet we see more instances of tragic events. The firearms that Adam Lanza used in the massacre at Newtown were legally purchased - HE STOLE THEM from his mother. How are more laws going to ban thievery?

I encourage the Working Group to tackle the real issue of mental health service. CT. has shut down most of its facilities that housed and helped these people. The people once housed in state run facilities were forced out into the community and are being "case managed" by the state. This model is not working. There is no state individual who is able to manage individuals who require medication to take their medication as directed. Furthermore, these mentally ill people are breeding. We need to look at reopening these hospitals no matter the cost. Doctors and families need to have a place to take people that suffer from mental illness. These hospitals will protect the patients as well as the public.

The closing of several state prisons in the recent years has not helped our society whatsoever. Just go ask Dr. Petit about his wife and daughters being brutally murdered by two prisoners who were wrongly released. The State of CT is not tough enough on crime. Again, ask Dr. Petit.

My father, Benjamin Blumstein, was murdered on September 9 1977 on Albany Avenue in Hartford by means of a knife. Our family never once asked the State of CT to ban the use of all kitchen knives. We wanted justice. We did not blame the knife used, but instead understood that the individual was the reason for the 57 - plus stab wounds on our father's chest.

The murderer's identity was never released because he was a minor. I bring this to light because of the current proposed bill where the State of Ct wants to make the "legal" gun owners names and addresses public. I see this as a set up for more home invasions, as well as burglaries. The State of CT will also be liable for any and all crimes related to subjecting the "legal" gun owners to crimes related to publicly exposing the fact that particular homes have firearms. The fact that I may own a firearm is as much someone's business as is the number of kitchen knives I have in my home.

The early release of prisoners and mental health patients by the state, to save money, also needs to be stopped. The Petit family home invasion is a tragic example of this. We must focus on the root cause of violence not the devices that are used to commit crimes.

More laws do not stop crime. Please consider the North End of Hartford as an example, where my father was murdered 36 years ago. The crime rate has not changed much in the North End - I see the evidence on the evening news on a regular basis. The criminals will always find a way to get guns. The legal gun owners need to stop being punished.

I urge you to respect the Second Amendment in your research and recommendations.

Thank you for the opportunity to voice my concerns,
Please feel free to contact me should you need to,

Judy Blumstein-Sirrine

