

My name is Justin Baldini. I'm a resident of Newington, CT. I'm an Instructor for Pistol Permits in the State of Connecticut. I'm also an NRA Certified Rifle and Shotgun Instructor and Range Safety Officer.

I am admittedly against any further restrictions on semi-automatic rifles or firearm magazines in the State of Connecticut for law abiding citizens.

This committee is now considering some of the most extreme gun-control proposals in the country. You will hear from groups who claim to speak for all the doctors, nurses, Police Chiefs, lawyers, and last but not least groups who claim to speak for the victims themselves. In reality, they're a very small vocal minority that despite a complete ignorance about the technical aspects of firearms, have presented a list of technical changes with their assurance that these quick-fixes are exactly what are needed to prevent another tragedy.

They'll tell you that these are "weapons of war", with no business on the streets of America; ignoring the obvious fact that our small Connecticut towns equip regular Police Officers with rifles affected by this legislation to help save lives, and that millions of Americans safely use firearms affected by this legislation for many lawful purposes. They'll tell you that pistol grips are for firearms designed to be "spray fired from the hip", despite the fact that no Police Officers, competition shooters, or hunters use them that way. Finally, they'll tell you that these firearms are the "preferred choice of criminals", despite the real fact that criminals overwhelmingly use cheap stolen handguns.

We know that this will be the narrative, because the narrative hasn't changed in 20 years, since the same people stood in front of the CT Legislature in 1993 and said the same things to pass the first Assault Weapons Ban (CGS 53-202a(1)). The narrative hadn't changed since 2001 either, when CT passed the Second Assault Weapons Ban (CGS 53-202a(3)).

The truth is; Police in Connecticut carry rifles because rifles can save lives. Many citizens in Connecticut own rifles affected by this proposed legislation for sport, hunting, competition shooting, and even for self-defense in order to save lives.

Should the committee continue down this failed path and pass a 3rd CT "Assault Weapons Ban", the **only** guarantee is that we'll be sitting here again having the same discussion in only a few more years, and that firearms owners will have to potentially discard or destroy literally thousands of dollars worth of magazines and firearms.

I urge the committee to work hard on keeping firearms out of the hands of criminals and specifically the mentally unstable, not to engage in a debate about the technical aspects of firearms. I also urge the committee to consider the repeal of existing CT so-called Assault Weapons law, which continues to do nothing but create a maze of technical traps for otherwise lawful gun owners to get caught up in, with absolutely no effect on criminal actions.

Please do not continue to be misled by these so-called quick-fixes.

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