

To whom it may concern:

We need to step back and look at the facts. A person was murdered in her home. The firearms used in the killing were stolen and then used again in a horrific tragic event that took place at Sandy Hook. What took place on December 14 is impossible for any sane person to comprehend. My thoughts and prayers go out to all the families of the victims and the children and staff that were there that day.

Facts:

1. Connecticut already has a ban on "assault weapons" (I put that in quotes because there is no such thing as an assault weapon. It was a label put on semiautomatic rifles with cosmetic features that do nothing to enhance the power or velocity of the projectile) The point here is bans don't work. If they did then why not ban murder or heroin?

2. Chicago should be the safest place in the United States because they have the strictest gun laws and all out bans on certain weapons. However the opposite is the case here. With the strictest laws in place Chicago has become the most dangerous place in the country. More people were killed in Chicago than soldiers in Afghanistan in the past year.

3. "The right of the people shall not be **infringed**" **infringed**- actively break the terms of; act so as to limit or undermine; encroach on.

4. The US Justice Department did a study on the national "assault weapons" ban from 1994-2004 and found that it had no effect on gun violence or violent crime.

5. Some of the safest places in the country have the most pro second amendment laws on their books; Texas, Florida, New Hampshire.....

6. A study shows that from 1992 to 2011 that violent crime is down 49%. A similar time period 1994-2011 gun ownership is up by almost 100%. 1994 roughly 180 million guns owned up to 390 million in 2011.

7. Connecticut's law enforcement officials have and continue to do a phenomenal job. However in a time of need they are called in after an incident has occurred or started to take place. I don't want to hide in a closet and hope they can get to me and family before anything happens. I also don't want my rights infringed. We have God given rights given to us in the constitution and people can use their free speech to disagree, but those rights cannot be taken from us.

I hope this does not just get pushed to the side. There are some bills that are now being pushed to the state houses that do nothing to curb violence or protect our children. I thought it was a hoax until I read it on the CGA website but weapons that fire one round are called Muskets or Black Powder rifles. I hope that this bill gets no votes because it is a senseless waste of taxpayer dollars. Another bill that would tax ammunition at 50% of its value is nothing but a money grab by the state. As for the insurance aspect the author of the bill must have ties to the insurance industry?

We are supposed to be a country of free people! With all the constant "Nanny State" type laws being introduced its hard to fathom staying in this state to raise my children. I don't want to be in a state that's trying to model itself after two bankrupt entitlement laden failures like California and Massachusetts. Please wake up and save Connecticut.

Thank you for taking the time to read this testimony.

Keith L