

To whom it may concern:

One of the biggest issues for our second amendment right is the concept of incrementalism, that is, each time a new law is made in the name of safety, the remaining preserved rights become "loopholes" and are then attacked. We see this with the "gun show loophole" which is nothing more than the right to privately transfer firearms, even if the private parties meet at a show, but has been demonized in the press as the means by which thousands of weapons are transferred in bulk to bad men and women. I'm sure it gets abused, as does every other law from the speed limit to littering, but it's a fundamental right. As a gun owner, I am concerned that today's preserved right, say the right to own a pump shotgun for home defense or a deer rifle, becomes tomorrow's "loophole". My suggestion to the committee is any remaining rights be clearly defined as sacred and restated publicly when the current effort is sunset.

A second concern is ammo registration and ammo taxes. This is ludicrous. As a sporting clays enthusiast participating in a sport that brings many dollars to the state economy and has less environmental impact than say golf or tennis (and frankly, is just a lot of fun!), charging me an ammo tax will do nothing for school safety or gun safety overall. Micro stamping or serial numbers won't work because as shells are transferred, discarded, and reloaded, there will be no integrity to the data base. It's just the nature of the beast. It's like trying to track air molecules. Let's not create expensive bureaucracies and databases which provide absolutely no benefit and probably trample the intent, if not the letter, of the constitution.

Another area is the proposed staffing of each school with armed security personnel. This would represent a fraction of the budget at each school (probably hire two officers or more for the price of one teacher) and provide a deterrent as well as some instant response capability. We all know that once responders arrive, the shooters often give up or turn the gun on themselves. Either is a better outcome than waiting for local responders, SWAT, or whatever. It won't work every time but at least the staff and students have a chance unlike in today's "gun free" zones. No matter what else you do, there will always be a plethora of illegal guns so the "gun free" concept is a fallacy. The concept of armed security already works in many schools such as those that high profile students attend so it's a proven approach and certainly with all the unfunded state mandates districts already cope with, this is an easy one to mandate. Itemize it on the budget and have a separate vote. I bet it'll pass every time...

As far as mental health, the data base has got to be comprehensive so the mentally impaired do not have legal access to weapons. What are we waiting for? Same thing for prosecution of existing laws. Thousands of illegal attempts to buy firearms have been thwarted by the instant check system, but no one gets prosecuted for lying on the forms.

The bill of rights does not spell out all our rights, only those the founders felt so strongly about, they listed them separately. They all deserve our respect and ultimate consideration must be given that all laws are consistent with both the letter and intent of each. We recently saw the governor of NY trample the second amendment with rushed through legislation and midnight meetings. Connecticut is better than that and I trust all proposals will be subject to proper vetting and due process.

Thank you,

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