

To whom it may concern,

As a resident of the state of CT, I oppose all of the multiple gun control legislation being proposed by the Connecticut state legislature; I apologize for not listing a specific bill, but there are literally dozens proposed at the moment.

My concern is that any new laws on gun control will only limit the ability of law abiding citizens to defend themselves from the likes of people this legislature is worried about. Rather than attempting new legislation, that will not deter criminals, why do we not enforce the laws we currently have? There are literally thousands of gun laws on the books already. Too often, criminals caught using firearms to commit a crime are allowed to plea down their case to save time and money in the courts, or those that are sentenced are released from prison early. If we are so concerned with controlling gun violence, we should enforce the laws we have. It will likely be more effective, and less costly, than any of this new legislation being proposed.

We should also be prosecuting those that lie on their NICS and/or state background checks. These crimes are almost never prosecuted, but should be.

Despite recent tragic events, and what we may read, or be shown on TV, there is not a gun epidemic in this country. In fact, violent crime has fallen consistently for the past few decades while more guns than ever (200-300MM) are in circulation in the US.

Most people use numbers to support their arguments, and I will do the same with the number 2,500,000. "Every year, people in the United States use guns to defend themselves against criminals an estimated 2,500,000 times – more than 6,500 people a day, or once every 13 seconds. 15.7% of the people using firearms defensively stated that they "almost certainly" saved their lives by doing so. Of the 2,500,000 times citizens use guns to defend themselves, 92% merely brandish their gun or fire a warning shot to scare off their attackers." [source: Journal of Criminal Law and Criminology, Kleck and Gertz]

2,500,000 Americans credit guns with actively protecting themselves or others. Firearms are used more often to protect lives than to take lives. So why would we then limit the ability of law abiding citizens to defend themselves?

I ask the committee to look out for the best interest of their constituents, and to drop these new gun control measures, in favor of the ones we already have. I ask that you appropriate the necessary funds to our value police departments to enforce those laws.

Thank you,

Kevin