

Please direct this to the full Gun Violence Prevention Working Group.

I am taking the time today to write to you regarding current proposals that have arisen in the aftermath of Sandy Hook. I encourage you to take the time to engage in a thoughtful reasoned study of the evidence regarding firearms and the criminal use of firearms. The DOJ, NIJ, CT OLR and innumerable peer reviewed studies of available data have determined that:

Magazine, magazine capacity bans and confiscations have no effect of violent crime. Any evidence to the contrary is anecdotal at best and disingenuous at worst. The OLR reports that this proposal could cost the state 100 million dollars in enforcement costs and lead to the loss of up to 43 million dollars in economic activity.

Modification of our existing assault weapon ban will have zero net effect on violent crime. The DOJ, the FBI and the NIJ report that there is no data to support the presumption that banning rifles lessens violent crime. The FBI UCR finds that for the years 2004-2001 more CT Citizens were killed by hands and feet than rifles of any type. Given that and other evidence does it not stand to reason that these proposals will do nothing to stop violent crime.

Gun registration, mandatory storage and liability insurance requirements are equally onerous. There is no evidence that shows any of these proposals will have any effect of crime. All of these proposals would certainly not withstand challenges on constitutional grounds. Registration serves only the state in creating lists. I shudder to imagine how the state would face mass disobedience to this proposal if it became law. NY State is now facing this very fact. NYS Sheriffs have vowed that they will not enforce. Firearms owners will not comply. imagine the cost to the state. How does one enforce mandatory storage? Inspections? Warrantless searches of private residences? At the end of the day mandatory storage cannot bear constitutional challenge. Liability insurance effects the Connecticut citizens of lesser means than anyone else. This is an absolutely regressive proposal that does nothing to stem violent crime and could make criminals out of ct citizens who now cannot afford to defend themselves from violent crime.

Again I urge you to examine the evidence provided by peer reviewed legitimate studies of available data. This is the only way to make sound judgements when proposed bills seek to limit a constitutionally protected right. Falling prey to hyperbole, anecdotal evidence and emotional pressure is certainly no way to propose and create laws.

Regards,
Kimberly Gnerre
Lakeville, CT