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Re:

- HB-5269 AN ACT INCREASING THE PENALTY FOR CRIMINAL USE OF A FIREARM OR ELECTRONIC DEFENSE WEAPON. **Support**
- HB-5165 AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEFENSE OF A PERSON'S HOME, MOTOR VEHICLE OR BUSINESS. **Support**
- HB-5176 AN ACT CONCERNING THE APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR A TEMPORARY STATE PERMIT TO CARRY A PISTOL OR REVOLVER. **Support**
- HB-5179 AN ACT CONCERNING ACCESS TO THE INTERACTIVE VOICE RESPONSE SYSTEM OF THE SPECIAL LICENSING AND FIREARMS UNIT OF THE DIVISION OF STATE POLICE. **Support**
- HB-5112 – REP. DARGAN: AN ACT CONCERNING THE DISCLOSURE OF THE NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF PERSONS HOLDING HANDGUN PERMITS. **Oppose**
- HB-5268 AN ACT REQUIRING THE MAINTENANCE OF LIABILITY INSURANCE BY FIREARM OWNERS AND ESTABLISHING A SALES TAX ON AMMUNITION. **Oppose**
- SB-1 AN ACT CONCERNING THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND OTHER INDIVIDUALS FROM VIOLENCE. **Oppose**
- SB-21 AN ACT AUTHORIZING BONDS OF THE STATE FOR AN ETERNAL LIGHT IN MEMORY OF VICTIMS OF GUN VIOLENCE. **Oppose**- amendment for all victims of violence, not just firearms.
- SB-42 AN ACT CONCERNING THE CRIMINAL POSSESSION OF AMMUNITION. **Oppose**
- SB-122 AN ACT CONCERNING RESTRICTIONS ON GUN USE. **Oppose**
- SB-124 AN ACT BANNING LARGE CAPACITY AMMUNITION MAGAZINES. **Oppose**
- SB-140 AN ACT CONCERNING LIABILITY INSURANCE FOR FIREARM OWNERS AND SALES TAX ON AMMUNITION. **Oppose**

"Those who hammer their guns into plows will plow for those who do not." ~ Thomas Jefferson

"You won't get gun control by disarming law-abiding citizens. There's only one way to get real gun control: Disarm the thugs and the criminals, lock them up, and if you don't actually throw away the key, at least lose it for a long time... It's a nasty truth, but those who seek to inflict harm are not fazed by gun controllers. I happen to know this from personal experience." Ronald Reagan, 1983

The Second Amendment of the Bill of Rights:

"A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed."

The Constitution of the state of Connecticut, Section 15

"Every citizen has a right to bear arms in defense of himself and the state."

I strongly urge you to vote as I have indicated above and **OPPOSE** the new gun control legislation that will be introduced by the above legislators in the 2013 General Assembly. More gun control is not the answer: guarding our children is, especially in light of the Newtown tragedy. We also need to focus on strengthening the ability of our State and Local police to fully enforce the laws we currently have related to gun violence by criminals. If a firearm is used in the commission of a crime, our courts need to prosecute and penalize these criminals to the fullest extent of the law is committed. We have to send a strong message that these crimes will **NO LONGER BE TOLERATED**.

The proposed pieces of gun control legislation, as summarized on the CGA.CT.GOV web site, would severely restrict the legitimate use of firearms by tens of millions of law-abiding Americans who use firearms for self-protection or sport. Otherwise **ONLY THE CRIMINALS** will have these firearms.

I am a sportsman and I made the commitment to spend the time to attend training courses to become an NRA Certified Instructor. I currently hold certifications as a Range Safety Officer and an Instructor for Rifle, Shotgun, Pistol, Muzzleloading

Rifle and Home Firearm Safety. I now use these certifications, and have done this for many years, to teach proper firearm safety, respect and use to both adults and young men as an adult leader in the Boy Scouts of America. I also hold a CT CCW Pistol Permit.

I believe proper education at an early age to respect and properly handle firearms is paramount to minimizing accidents in the home and in our schools. I wonder if all of you are aware of the extensive effort by the NRA to teach firearm safety to all age groups through their close affiliation with youth organizations such as the Boy Scouts of America. Their "Eddie Eagle" program is geared toward young boys ages 7-10 and is an excellent program. We teach this program to our cub scouts and hold supervised BB gun shooting events for where we reinforce the safe handling of these firearms. If this program were brought to elementary and middle schools, it might help to eliminate the frequent occurrences we see on the news, where a young person brings a firearm to school. I encourage ALL of you to consider funding programs such as this in our schools. It will be, in my opinion, money well spent

For our older Boy Scouts, ages 11-18, we have shooting sports programs for rifle and for boys 14 and older; we have programs for shotgun and black powder rifles. All adult leaders must go through the same NRA certification courses that I did in order to run these programs for their scouts. The NRA and Boy Scouts of America have policies that require both a certified Range Safety Officer and Instructor (one or more depending on the range type and number of shooting stations) at each shooting event. **The NRA is so committed to safe shooting that, they provide instructors with free student training kits for all Boy Scout leaders taking these training classes.**

Let us not lose sight of the fact that it is also incumbent on **parents** to take responsibility for safely and securely storing firearms in the home through the use of gunlocks, safes, etc. One **IMPORTANT POINT** that I have **NOT** heard from any of our legislators is the fact that had **ADAM LANZA'S MOTHER**, knowing that her son had mental health issues, secured their firearms in a safe or with gunlocks, Sandy Hook would most likely **NOT HAVE HAPPENED** and we would, most likely, not be having these discussions. **THESE ARE THE ISSUES WE NEED TO ADDRESS NOT ADDITIONAL LEGISLATION TO RESTRICT THE SECOND AMMENDMENT RIGHTS OF LAW ABIDING CITIZENS.**

Furthermore, I strongly disagree with any legislation to BAN the use of high capacity magazines. As a husband and a father, I have a responsibility to protect my family and property from anyone seeking to break in to our home with the intent to steal or cause us harm. Hopefully, that will never happen but, if it does, I want to be able to defend my family with as many rounds as necessary to prevent an attack. Today, most pistols come from the factory with 10-14 round magazines. To now restrict the use of these magazines would jeopardize the ability to ensure my family's safety in the event of a home break-in. Should this happen to my family, or any family for that matter, and a family member is injured or, god forbid, killed, **where will you legislators be?** You surely will not take responsibility for this tragic event that I am certain of.

Let me remind you of a home invasion that took place just a couple of weeks ago. It has been all over the national news:

1/7/13- Police said a Georgia mother hiding with her children shot an intruder five times after he chased them in their own home Friday afternoon.

Fortunately, this courageous mother successfully defended her children and ONLY the intruder was injured. This is a perfect example of why high capacity magazines should NOT be banned. The firearm used by this mother was a revolver with a 5 shot capacity. If there was more than one intruder, she would NOT have had enough time to reload to fend off a second attacker and the outcome could have ended in tragedy. In the case of a semi-automatic pistol or rifle, she would have had additional rounds for protection and would have had the ability to quickly change to another loaded magazine.

Finally, I resent the "fear mongering" statements that most of the legislators dispense when talking about the AR-15 rifle. Let me CLARIFY this issue for future discussions. The AR-15 rifle that is available to private citizens is NOT AN ASSAULT RIFLE. An ASSAULT RIFLE is a FULLY AUTOMATIC version of this rifle that is ONLY available to our MILITARY and LAW ENFORCEMENT officials. The "AR" designation in the model number of this rifle originated from the original designer/manufacturer, Armalite. Furthermore, I take GREAT offense to your constant reference to "WEAPONS" when referring to civilian or private citizens' FIREARMS! Weapons are again, used by MILITARY and LAW ENFORCEMENT officials in the course of their duties. The term also, unfortunately, refers to CRIMINAL use as that is their sole purpose. The terms that should be used with respect to private citizen related discussions are; firearm, rifle, pistol, etc.

I strongly suggest that you consider sitting in, or participating in an NRA training class. It will be an eye opener and it will give you the REAL STORY of how to respect, safely use and properly store FIREARMS in the home and it will give you some well presented education. Until then, you are only proposing "Band-Aid" legislation that will serve only to infringe on our Second Amendment Rights and **will do little or nothing** to solve the problems that need to be addressed.

Thank you for your consideration and please feel free to contact me if you would like to discuss this issue further.

Respectfully,

Kirk L. Engstrom