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Gun Violence Prevention Working Group Public Hearing

Monday, January 28th, 2013
Legislative Office Building
Room 2C

Dear Legislative Panel,

I don't know where to begin, as I am writhing this there are over 30 separate bills and proposals for gun control, while most of them seem to focus on the same 3-5 topics. I urge you to resist doing "something" just for the purpose of doing "something". Feel good legislation will do nothing for the safety of our community. Think about it, for the tragedy in Newtown to happen, how many existing laws did Adam Lanza break in order to do what he did? There are laws against possession of a handgun without a permit- broke it. There are laws against the possession of firearms on school property - broke it.

And of course, there are laws against murder - this was unfortunately the worst of the laws he broke that day. I'm sure there are many more laws that he broke during the course of those horrific events, but these are probably the biggest. As you can see, they did not stop a mad man. It seems to be common sense that the only thing laws do is define the repercussions of committing said crime, they are not a very effective tool to stop an unstable or dangerous individual. I like the vast majority of legal gun owners in this state and country are not the ones to fear. We care about the law and our fellow citizens which is why we are so passionate about the defense of our 2A rights. While the laws that are being proposed WILL NOT EFFECT the criminal; type-of, involving, or having the nature of crime; they will effect those of us who care, law abiding citizens. Connecticut, while already having some of the toughest gun control laws on the books, also has one of the strongest guarantee of our second amendment rights under the state Constitution-

Every citizen has a right to bear arms in defense of himself and the state, which also follows the verb-age of the U.S. 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.

Many of the bills being proposed are a serious infringement on our rights. As law makers, your first duty is to uphold the Constitution, remember this, "I, (name of Member), do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which I am about to enter. So help me God" (5 U.S.C. §3331).

I along with many of other 2A supporters vote, and will be watching closely as to how things develop over these next few weeks and months.

Now to address some specific points;

AN ACT CONCERNING THE DISCLOSURE OF THE NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF PERSONS HOLDING HANDGUN PERMITS.

HB- Oppose- legal gun owners are not like sex offenders, we broke no laws
5112 in legally exercising and obtaining our permits.

AN ACT CONCERNING THE APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR A
HB- TEMPORARY STATE PERMIT TO CARRY A PISTOL OR REVOLVER.
5176 Support- some actual common sense.

HB-5268 AN ACT REQUIRING THE MAINTENANCE OF LIABILITY INSURANCE
BY FIREARM OWNERS AND ESTABLISHING A SALES TAX ON AMMUNITION.

Oppose- why should I be required to carry liability insurance to defend myself against a criminal act. Criminals should be the ones carrying the insurance so that I may be able to collect damages from them! As far as the tax on ammo, if a criminal or convicted felon can obtain a fire arm through illegal channels, I think they will be able to get ammunition while avoiding the tax too. Again, where does the vast majority of gun crime originate.

HB-5269 AN ACT INCREASING THE PENALTY FOR CRIMINAL USE OF A
FIREARM OR ELECTRONIC DEFENSE WEAPON. Support- Why would anybody have a problem with that one.

SB-42 AN ACT CONCERNING THE CRIMINAL POSSESSION OF AMMUNITION. No position, but again think about it, why would it be a problem for a felon or prohibited person from possessing ammunition? Remember it's already against the law for these same people to own a firearm. What danger is ammunition with out the gun?

SB-122 AN ACT CONCERNING RESTRICTIONS ON GUN USE. STRONGLY
OPPOSE- This is just utterly ridiculous

SB-124 AN ACT BANNING LARGE CAPACITY AMMUNITION MAGAZINES.
Oppose- If police feel these devices may save their own lives, I should have the same means to protect myself and my family if the need arises. Remeber, the 2A has nothing to do with hunting. Ten rounds will probably not be enough in a self-defense situation.

Recent studies on self-defense shootings have shown hit rates of less than 20 percent in many LEO self-defense situations. If a bad guy points a lethal weapon at a cop, the cop has every right to stop the threat just like we have the right to defend ourselves. If only one-in-five rounds hit the target, and you are limited to 10 rounds, there is a good chance you will not be able to stop the threat. Of course, the bad guys will not be limited when it comes to their own magazine, putting those who want to do you harm at a significant advantage.

- In a self-defense situation, you want to avoid manipulating the weapon at all except for pulling the trigger straight back. Law enforcement and civilians do not favor high-capacity magazines so they can shoot more rounds, they favor them so they can manipulate their weapon less.
- Yes, reloading additional magazines is possible, but that is manipulating the weapon and even though it can be done quickly, it takes time you may not have.
- There have been many documented instances where someone has been shot two, three, four or even eight times and they continued to be a threat to the person or persons defending themselves. Ask any EMT, nurse or ER physician who has dealt with a combative person who has been shot multiple times.

SB-277 AN ACT CONCERNING SCHOOL DISTRICT POLICIES REGARDING THE CARRYING OF FIREARMS IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS. Support- Why create criminal safe zones. Only a **law abiding** pistol permit holder will follow this. Obviously the illegal possession guns on school property law didn't stop the Newtown tragedy.

SB-501 AN ACT CONCERNING THE BAN ON ASSAULT WEAPONS. Oppose- The term assault weapon is vastly misunderstood. An assault weapon is nothing more than a SEMI-AUTOMATIC gun that has "scary features". Some of these features are pistol grips, flash hiders, adjustable stocks, and removable magazines just to name a few. They have nothing to do with how the weapon functions. If the trigger is pulled 1 time, only 1 bullet will fire. They operate no differently than the SEMI-AUTOMATIC rifles that are not included in the AWB that is being proposed by Dianne Feinstein or the current AWB in Connecticut. The assault weapons in the Feinstein Bill, and Connecticut's current AWB, ban SEMI-AUTOMATIC guns may LOOK LIKE military weapons, but they DO NOT function like military ASSAULT RIFLES. ASSAULT RIFLES are rifles that are select fire weapons. They have the capability of firing in rapid sustained fire, ie. keep the trigger pulled back and it will not stop firing until the magazine is empty.

Even The United States Department of Homeland Security has stated a rifle chambered in 5.56 NATO (compatible with .223) with a magazine capacity of 30 rounds is "suitable for personal defense use in close quarters..."

In closing, thank you for considering my testimony. Hopefully any proposed legislation will be thoroughly considered before it is voted on. The last thing the public needs is for our legislators to do "something" for the sake of doing "something".

Sincerely,
Marc Pagnucco