

MEMBERS OF THE GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION WORKING GROUP:

Please accept this written testimony: Matt Zurell_299 Brook Street_Bristol, CT_06010_860.584.0165

I wish to express my opposition to the following bills: SB-1, SB-161, SB-613, SB-676, HB-5647, HB-5953, HB-5954, HB-5955, HB-6215, and HB-6216. These reference (1) bans, prohibitions on sale and/or possession of, and registration of what you call (but are not in fact), "Assault Weapons", and (2) firearm magazines that hold more than 10 rounds.

I very strongly oppose HB-6260, the proposed adaptation of the entire package of CCM recommendations along with its "all gun registration" provision in (6a). As I could only support 19 out of the 94 bills pertaining to guns in the pipeline, those and the rest of the 64 that I oppose are listed in my written testimony.

Today I am 100% proud to be an American and CT Yankee. In the wake of an irresponsible debate on firearms I am also 100% ashamed of how we let fear control our thinking. Are the proposals being considered by this group actually going to REDUCE violence? A myriad of supporting facts indicate... no. I respectfully but emphatically ask, is it this legislative body's sworn Constitutional oath to pass legislation based on emotion or factual testimony? The resulting legislation should have the ultimate goal of producing results... not making ourselves feel good, as we walk away leaving behind a blood bath of unintended consequences.

On January 25th, UVA Law Professor Richard Bonnie, the Virginia Tech Shooting Panel's expert, spoke in Newtown warning that, "The greatest risk we faced in 2008, and that you face today, is moral pressure to take action quickly and decisively". He went on to say that same moral pressure "can also spawn disproportionate responses that either erode the privacy or liberty of people with mental illness." Is the privacy and liberty of hundreds of thousands of law abiding... VOTING... gun owners in CT any less important?

Why are these 94 bills even being considered, and what results will they produce? I only see 19 that are thoughtful illustrations of rational crime prevention that strengthen current law. While seemingly well-intentioned, the rest are in fact immoral and decimate the rights of honest citizens. This is NOT the way to honor those who lost their lives in Newtown.

I formulated this testimony on Saturday when there were 240 letters of written testimony on the Task Force website. At that time, 167 responses were against gun legislation, 62 were for it, and 11 were neutral or off topic.

Reading the responses was profoundly thought provoking. The vast majority, perhaps 90% plus, of the anti-gun crowd's arguments consisted of "do something because of Newtown" and "guns are bad".

In contrast, 167 cries for rationality in this debate were submitted by law-abiding gun owners, firefighters, and law enforcement. They were lengthy, thought provoking, and reinforced with evidence – not emotion. Almost all factually disproved the validity of gun restrictions.

Just read the testimony and listen today (Monday). That's all I ask. And honor the spirit of Article 1, Section 15 of the original CT State Constitution.... NOT the version that affords the right of legal gun ownership of single shot Derringers by the time you're done... paying a 50% tax on ammo... and having to maintain liability insurance... while worrying that the authorities will show up at your back door to take inventory of your firearms and God forbid you missed one.

Addendum to:

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HB 5112 OPPOSE
HB 5165 **SUPPORT**
HB 5176 **SUPPORT**
HB 5179 **SUPPORT**
HB 5268 **STRONGLY OPPOSE**
HB 5269 **SUPPORT**
HB 5452 **STRONGLY OPPOSE**
HB 5561 OPPOSE
HB 5580 OPPOSE
HB 5646 **SUPPORT**
HB 5647 **STRONGLY OPPOSE**
HB 5651 OPPOSE
HB 5654 **STRONGLY OPPOSE**
HB 5656 **SUPPORT**
HB 5660 **SUPPORT**
HB 5676 OPPOSE
HB 5934 OPPOSE
HB 5935 **STRONGLY OPPOSE**
HB 5937 **SUPPORT**
HB 5949 **STRONGLY OPPOSE**
HB 5950 OPPOSE
HB 5951 OPPOSE
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HB 5955 **STRONGLY OPPOSE**
HB 5956 **STRONGLY OPPOSE**
HB 5957 OPPOSE
HB 6006 OPPOSE
HB 6008 OPPOSE
HB 6010 **STRONGLY OPPOSE**
HB 6013 OPPOSE
HB 6014 **SUPPORT**
HB 6131 OPPOSE
HB 6161 OPPOSE
HB 6162 OPPOSE
HB 6163 OPPOSE
HB 6215 **STRONGLY OPPOSE**
HB 6216 **STRONGLY OPPOSE**
HB 6244 OPPOSE
HB 6245 **STRONGLY OPPOSE**
HB 6246 OPPOSE
HB 6247 OPPOSE
HB 6248 OPPOSE
HB 6249 **STRONGLY OPPOSE**
HB 6250 OPPOSE

HB 6260 **STRONGLY OPPOSE**
HB 6261 OPPOSE
SB 1 **STRONGLY OPPOSE**
SB 21 OPPOSE
SB 42 OPPOSE
SB 122 **STRONGLY OPPOSE**
SB 124 **STRONGLY OPPOSE**
SB 140 **STRONGLY OPPOSE**
SB 161 **STRONGLY OPPOSE**
SB 207 **SUPPORT**
SB 277 **SUPPORT**
SB 307 OPPOSE
SB 377 OPPOSE
SB 495 **SUPPORT**
SB 496 **SUPPORT**
SB 501 OPPOSE
SB 503 **SUPPORT**
SB 504 **STRONGLY OPPOSE**
SB 505 OPPOSE
SB 506 OPPOSE
SB 600 **STRONGLY OPPOSE**
SB 601 **STRONGLY OPPOSE**
SB 604 **SUPPORT**
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SB 613 **STRONGLY OPPOSE**
SB 615 **STRONGLY OPPOSE**
SB 676 **STRONGLY OPPOSE**
SB 679 **SUPPORT**
SB 710 OPPOSE
SB 711 OPPOSE
SB 734 OPPOSE
SB 737 OPPOSE
SB 739 OPPOSE
SB 740 **SUPPORT**
SB 742 OPPOSE
SB 743 **SUPPORT**
SB 745 OPPOSE
SB 780 OPPOSE
SB 781 **STRONGLY OPPOSE**