

Hello, my name is Matthew Erff. I live in Hamden. I have worked as a 911 dispatcher for my local police and fire departments for 16 and a half years. I am here to comment on the proposed bills regarding gun control. I believe that what you are proposing will not stop gun violence or stop future mass killings.

There are three major problems that are the proximate causes of gun violence. The three are drugs, gangs, and mental health. Most of the crime committed is caused by drugs. People who commit burglaries, robberies, home invasions, and assaults do so to either get drugs or get money for drugs. Banning certain types of guns or the size of magazines is not going to stop these people. These people are desperate for their drugs.

Gangs are the second major problem. They are the main parties involved in gun violence. They kill each other over unpaid drug debts and over drug turf. They have no respect for life, only for their own drug profits. They usually range in age from 14 to 24. They do not care if they die or if they kill someone, even the innocent bystander. Most of the shooting suspects are under 21 years of age, which makes it illegal for them to have a gun to start with. They are not going to obey any new laws since they do not obey any current laws.

As for mental health issues, the State has failed to provide sufficient mental health facilities and treatment for those in need. The shooters in all of the mass shootings and the bow and arrow/knife attack in Wyoming were committed by people who have severe mental health issues. These people did not get the treatment they needed. Aurora's shooter made mention of mass killings to his mental health care provider, but they failed in his treatment and failed to alert the police.

These people are extremely dangerous to the public because they are unpredictable in their violence because they have not received the proper help. I have suffered a personal tragedy do to mental health issues and gun violence, but I do not blame guns. They also will not be affected by any new gun laws.

The only people you are affecting with new gun laws are law abiding citizens like me. You are going to make law abiding citizens less safe and criminals/mental ill persons bolder. I can tell you that the nationwide average response time is six minutes. This is from the FBI information. The police cannot always protect you from criminals. This is not their fault. They are responders. They only know about a crime after it has happened. Personal firearms ownership is the best way for law abiding citizens to protect themselves, their families and friends. As for what you call "assault weapons", an AR-15 or similar rifle is a low to medium power rifle. The round they fire is almost the same size as a 22 caliber round. They are not high power rifles. They are recommended by Homeland Security as a personal defense weapon in close quarters, which is in a person's home. Limiting high capacity magazines limits the amount of ammunition someone has for their own protection, since law abiding citizens are the only ones who obey laws. Two weeks ago in Georgia, a woman defended herself and her children from a home invader. She shot him five times in the face, but he managed to drive away. She was lucky since she was out of ammunition. Had there been more than one assailant, she and her children could have been killed. The criminals/evil people in this world will always have the guns they need, but you plan on handicapping the law abiding citizens the tools they need to protect themselves and

families. I am happy to answer any questions you may have. Thank you.