

Dear Senator Witkos,

As the Connecticut State Legislature moves closer to a vote on a large number of bills relating to gun violence in our state, the state and national debates on this subject continue. As I am sure you are aware, both sides of this argument have taken staunch, committed positions.

As I have said before in a previous letter to you on this matter, I am opposed to any of the pending legislation in our state that generated as the result of the tragedy at Sandy Hook School in December of 2012. I am also opposed to the proposed use of "e-Certification" (Emergency Certification) as a means of bypassing further public comment prior to actual voting.

Yesterday the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights and Human Rights held hearings on "Proposals to Reduce Gun Violence: Protecting Our Communities While Respecting the Second Amendment." In advance of the hearings the subcommittee solicited letters from the public.

One such letter the subcommittee received was from David B. Kopel who is, among other things, Adjunct Professor of Advanced Constitutional Law, Denver University, Sturm College of Law. As Attorney Kopel's analysis of the unconstitutionality of the proposed federal measures is evident in the reading of his letter, I will spare you any summary here. Suffice to say, what he has said about any federal bans would apply to Connecticut as well, I believe.

I hope you will take the time to read this letter and allow the many cogent points contained in it to inform your position on this very important issue. Furthermore, I hope you will share this letter with your colleagues on both sides of the argument.

It seems a terrible waste of time and resources for certain members of our legislature to be applying a, "throw it against the wall and see what sticks" approach by putting forth bills that will do nothing to reduce violence in our state. Further, it seems certain members of our legislature are intend on taking out their misplaced outrage on a segment of society that had nothing to do with the school shooting. In plain English, much of what has been proposed amounts to sheer harassment. Clearly, much of what has been proposed, if passed into law, would be unconstitutional on both the federal and state level.

My hope is that my legislature will use this opportunity to have a meaningful discussion about the root causes of violence, not gun violence but violence in our society. To miss this opportunity would be to compound tragedy.

I thank you in advance for your consideration on this very important matter.

Most Respectfully Yours,

Michael D. Ganis
Simsbury, Connecticut

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"When tyranny becomes law, defiance becomes duty." - Thomas Jefferson