

1/28/13

Testimony of Michael Liska, RA

To: CT Legislative Task Force Committee Hearing on gun "safety":

Thank you committee chairs: Senator Looney & Representative Miner, & members of the Task Force committee.

My name is Michael Liska & I live and work in Wethersfield.

I'm a father of (2) school age children, a 5<sup>th</sup> grader in town, and a 9th grader at a Hartford Magnet school.

The massacre on December 14<sup>th</sup> has affected us significantly. I was working on my start-up Architecture firm's first website, defining & refining our mission & graphics about creating a Modern New England Architecture, but after the massacre decided it must wait.

I could not focus on creating great Pedestrian oriented places now. I felt paralyzed in trying to make sense of what occurred. To move through this, I saw I had to do what I could constructively, for our kids.

I've been reading "... *Much About History*" by Kenneth Davis & saw the issue so clearly.

I put pen to paper and (4) days after the massacre, had a Draft Bill & Petition that I sent to my CT representative Morin & Senators Fonfara and Doyle. This draft bill & petition has been included at the end of my written testimony for your use and reference yet in light of hearing time, I'll not read it here.

Instead I will summarize it with a call & message of encouragement to you for action, & then a poem.

On January 28, 2013.

# A CALL and MESSAGE

Of Encouragement for Action to our

## Connecticut State Legislators

**F**OR God's Sake & the Sake of our Children:  
Connecticut's densely populated civil society should not contain semi or full automatic firearms.

Enact law to collect semi and full automatic firearms now, to turn back the clock on citizens who continue to own & purchase these overly powerful weapons.

We look to you our leaders to lead on this to set safe limits to create a society that prevents ownership of materials and weapons suited for mass murder.

Permit only a reasonable limit of ordinary manual re-chambering firearms to uphold the 2nd Amendment of the U.S. Constitution for personal protection and some resistance to potential tyranny. Individual citizens in a densely populated civil society should not have the same fire power as our law enforcement and military.

Turn back the clock on citizens who continue to own & purchase these overly powerful weapons. Enact law to collect semi & full automatic firearms now.

Connecticut's densely populated civil society should not contain semi or full automatic firearms.

Signed: 

Michael Liska, RA  
814 Ridge Road  
Wethersfield, CT

(5) days ago an article appeared in the Hartford Courant titled, "*Gun Sales So Brisk, Shortages Develop*".

In the article it stated that gun manufacturers call military-style assault weapons: "Modern Sporting Rifles".  
This compelled me to respond, & write this poem:

(pause)

# Paranoid Sport ?

Sport

What kind of country would you have sport

Not the kind of rapid fire killing you court

Sports are sportsmanship, even and fair

Sport

Even and Fair; not a country full of rapid fire flair

Paranoid sport

Sport, even and fair, deliberate and true

One shot at a time, not rapid fire stew

Paranoid sport

Sport

Keep a gun, OK one for each hand

One shot at a time, that's a country's stand

Sport

Not semi not full, no rapid fire stew

Sport, even and fair

Not Hype, Not Hyper, not rapid fire

Sport, game, level the playing field

That's the only power each shall wield

Sport

For what good is freedom, in a rapid fire killing country

Turn in the semi, turn in the full to reserve them only for war

Cut to the chase of compromise, for all, even and fair

One gun for each hand, is all that a country need dare

Sport

*by* Michael Liska, RA  
814 Ridge Road  
Wethersfield, CT

12/18/12

Dear Representative Morin, and Senators Fonfara & Doyle,  
Due to the recent extreme massacre in Sandy Hook, Newtown we the undersigned request that you together and with any of your like-minded colleagues draft a bill to make our community safer to now rid us of assault and excessive firearms, based upon this draft bill, below. This is the next logical step to make our schools and community safer, while still maintaining the Constitution's 2nd amendment, yet allow only limited quantities of ordinary non semi or full automatic firearms for personal or collective self defense against tyranny, "necessary for the security of a free state" as originally intended by the founding fathers of the nation. "The Supreme Court has consistently ruled that the Second Amendment does not bind the states, so that state and local governments are free to enact gun control laws if they desire."<sup>1</sup>

Draft Bill:

Eliminate the citizen possession of assault type & excessive quantities of firearms in Connecticut:

1. Collect and destroy all existing semi-automatic & automatic firearms, and all ammunition clips over (10) rounds/ bullets; starting on 1/1/13.
2. Ban the possession, manufacture, sale, transport and storage of firearms and ammunition described in item 1 in the state, except for legitimate use by the U.S. or Connecticut National Guard armed services or law enforcement agencies; effective starting 8/1/13.
3. Collect and reimburse the fair market value of any firearms and ammunition beyond (2) ordinary manual rechambering (non semi-automatic or full automatic) firearms, and a maximum of (4) clips of (10) rounds/ bullets (or (40) rounds/ bullets total), per qualified individual; starting on 3/1/13.
4. Allow the possession of a maximum of (2) ordinary manual rechambering (non semi-automatic or full automatic) firearms, and a maximum of (4) clips of (10) rounds/ bullets (or (40) rounds/ bullets total), per qualified individual; effective on 4/1/12.
5. Penalty for violating any of the items 1-4 shall be: \$15,000 fine for the 1<sup>st</sup> offense, and (15) years in prison and another fine of \$15,000 for the 2<sup>nd</sup> and subsequent offenses.

Cost:

The cost to pay for the firearm destruction in item 1 can be done gradually as the state's financial situation improves, however the collection of firearms in item 1 would start immediately on 1/1/13, and stored in a secured armory for the time being. The ammunition clips collected in item 1 may be given to the U.S. or Connecticut National Guard armed services or law enforcement agencies.

Other costs to administer and enforce the items would be funded by the ongoing resale to market of excess ammunition beyond the limit described in item 3, and penalties collected through the enforcement of item 5.

Draft author:

Michael Liska, RA

Father of 5<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> graders at Wethersfield & Hartford schools.

Wethersfield H.S., class of '83.

BARCH, The Pennsylvania State University, class of '88.

Registered Architect by the State of Connecticut, since '94.

814 Ridge Road  
Wethersfield, CT  
860-563-1656

cc: US Representative Larson, US Senator Lieberman, US Senator Blumenthal.

Petition signatures:

Signature:

Name (print):

Address:

Note:

*Michael Liska*

Michael Liska

814 Ridge Rd. Weth.

<sup>1</sup> "Don't know much about History", by Kenneth C. Davis, copyright 2003.

Petition signatures:

Signature:	Name (print):	Address:	Note:
	PAUL LAFERRIERE	66 Brookside Circle WETHERSFIELD, CT	
	Lorraine M. Therrien	33 State St. Wethersfield, CT	
	Arthur H. Therrien	33 State St. Wethersfield, CT	
	John T. Hallinan	404 Brimfield Rd. Wethersfield, CT	
	Michelle Basco	17 Westhook Rd Wethersfield CT 06109	
	Jacqueline Laferriere	66 Brookside Circle Wethersfield, CT	
	Kelly Weinberg	62 Brookside Circle Wethersfield, CT 06109	
	PATRICK ADAMS	95 Colonel Chester Dr. Wethersfield, CT 06109	
	Doreen R. Adams	95 Colonel Chester Dr Wethersfield, CT	
	Kimberly Herron	420 Wells Rd. Wethersfield CT 06109	
	Sharon Silbo	72 Dix Road Wethersfield, CT 06109	
	Peter Silbo	72 Dix Rd Wethersfield, CT 06109	
	Nancy Cyr	1320 Berlin Trk Wethersfield, CT 06109	
	Thence Savinelli	12 Bellaire Manor Cromwell CT 06416	
	Carmen Pagan	41 Glenn Road Apt C23 East Hartford CT 06118	
	Monica Carr	482 East St. New Britain, CT 06111	
	GEORGE COLEMAN	24 CLEARFIELD RD WETH CT 06108	
	Ann Riley	24 Clearfield Rd Wethersfield CT 06109	



