

1 February 2013

To: All Connecticut Legislators  
From: Michael R McJunkins  
223 Whalehead Rd  
Gales Ferry, CT 06335

Subject: Proposed Bills Related to Firearms

Dear Connecticut Legislators,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the use of *Emergency Certification* for all recently proposed firearms legislation. There is currently no emergency in Connecticut so great as to take away the people's right to be heard before these bills are considered and voted on. The recent Task Force hearings should make it perfectly clear that residents of Connecticut are not only interested in the bills related to firearms, but that they are willing to speak out and be heard for or against them. It is imperative that Connecticut residents retain the ability to be a part of the legislative process in order to maintain faith in our currently elected officials.

I further more am asking that you consider stronger enforcement of current gun laws, rather than proposing new one's that instantly turn law abiding citizens into criminals merely for possessing a firearm or firearm accessory similar to one used in a crime. I am not opposed to enforcing laws on keeping firearms out of the hands of those who should not have them. I am opposed creating new laws to take commonly owned firearms away from law abiding citizens (even if just one type of commonly owned firearm). Those who obey the laws should not be the target of any new legislation, as those who obey the law are not the problem.

I am asking you to reconsider the notion of Gun Free Zones when it comes to protecting our residents, especially when it comes to protecting our children. I, and all other law abiding citizens honor Gun Free Zones. Criminals on the other hand, do not! It is naive to think that someone intent on breaking the law would abide by this ultimatum. Allowing police, security personnel, trained school personnel or other law abiding persons the ability to defend our residents in these environments is our last option at saving lives when all other options have failed. After 9-11, Americans were in overwhelming agreement that more Sky Marshalls (armed) were needed on

1 February 2013

airplanes and that pilots could be armed (if they chose to be) in order to prevent disaster. Why would we not allow the same thing when it comes to saving the lives of our children on the ground? There is a very common saying among American Citizens who practice some form of self defense; it is, "*when seconds count, the police are only minutes away.*" The next time that there are only seconds to stop a madman in his tracks, will any of the new proposed bills against legal firearms ownership help, or will the defenseless still have to wait minutes for help?

Thank you very much for reading my letter. I look forward to continued participation on this topic.

Michael R McJunkins