

To Whom It May Concern:

As a concerned citizen, I urge you to vote against any attempt to further restrict our 2nd Amendment Rights.

Not only is the 2nd Amendment about protecting our gun ownership for hunting, sport shooting, collecting, and self-defense.

It is about the freedom of responsible law-abiding citizens to own firearms.

The 2nd Amendment to the Constitution of the United States is a specific provision designed to protect that right of the people.

What is amazing to me is that gun accidents are not even on the top 10 lists of deaths in the US, yet we hear little else!

In addition many of the proposed laws and restrictions come with financial penalties in the form of exorbitant taxes on ammunition and firearms,

as well as increased fees for permit renewals. This seems a convenient way to make up for budget deficits rather than preventing violent crime,

while penalizing law abiding citizens rather than the irresponsible or criminal actions of a few.

Connecticut has some of the strictest gun laws in the country, which unfortunately did not stop the Sandy Hook tragedy; it's not a matter of gun control, rather properly addressing those individuals who commit crime.

Our firearms guarantee our status as free men. If we allow our government to strip us of our right to keep and bear arms, we have effectively allowed our servant to become our master.

Thank you very much,
Michael A. Stephens
Middlebury