

To Whom It May Concern:

Please accept this communication as my testimony to your group since I am sure your hearing will be most busy this week.

I have been an avid sportsman for many years as a hunter, recreational and competitive shooter. I learned to shoot as a young boy at the side of my grandfather and under the tutelage of my small town police department. I currently compete in many forms around the state with hundreds of individuals with a similar passion for the sport. As a person, I have never had, nor can I conceive of, using the tools of my sport to harm another individual unless I was protecting myself or my family. The large number of sportsmen I have interacted with through the years maintain similar values on this subject to mine. Yet as we look at the landscape of proposed legislative today it is our rights that appear to be front and center as the target of the current process? I do not see any legislation to deal with gang violence which is far and away the major cause of gun deaths in this state. Just last summer Governor Malloy himself stated that gun violence in this state was concentrated in the hands of a few. The proposed actions do not address the few criminals they address the many law abiding citizens.

I do not believe there is any empirical data to support the success of any of the bills currently proposed?

I have been a sports fan for years and have noted that every time a fan tries to gain attention for himself by running on the field, the media refuses to show the offender. They do not wish to support this type of activity by giving the individual the spot light they seem to be after. Yet since the Newtown tragedy the murderer has been shown and discussed, with great detail, in every form of media daily. I can not help but wonder what other disturbed person is sitting in front of his computer playing hours of incredibly violent games becoming desensitized to the violence and get tips on how to get the maximum effect to make his impact and news exposure greater than the Newtown murderer. I have seen nothing to address these issues being discussed?

In carrying out his actions at Newtown the murderer broke about about eight existing laws that come to mind. The point being that criminals and the mentally ill do not follow laws. The addition of another to curb their actions seems pointless. The recent West Webster NY tragedy in which a convicted murderer beat a relative to death with a hammer and is walking the streets is viewed as another surprise gun event. I believe this falls directly at the feet of the legislative and judicial systems in that state for ever allowing and individual that could carry out such a deed to walk the streets and then be surprised by it?

To sum up I would hope that you would focus your activities on areas that would address the root problem of these criminals rather than taking away the constitutional rights of law abiding citizens.

Thank you for your time and attention.

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