

To Whom It May Concern,

There obviously needs to be a reduction in gun related crime nation wide. At the core of the problem is mental illness; people with no value or understanding of value for human life. These types of individuals should not have access to any type of weapon. Every prospective gun owner should be required to go through a screening process before being allowed access to firearms. Gun safety and education should also be mandatory for firearm purchases. Gun owners have a responsibility to store their firearms so they are not readily accessible to unauthorized individuals. There also needs to be more accessible mental healthcare available to these individuals that need it.

However, it is important that the gun rights of law abiding citizens are not infringed. Banning certain types of firearms and magazines will have no positive affect on gun related crime. The types of firearms that have been proposed to be banned are no more dangerous than any other firearm. These so called "assault weapons" have purely cosmetic features that make them look "military style." They, in fact, function no differently than most other civilian firearms. As for magazine limits, that will not have a positive affect either. It takes no more than one or two seconds to change a magazine by an experienced individual.

New restrictions on firearms will only limit law abiding citizens in home and personal defense. Criminals will continue to have access to any weapon, magazine capacity, and ammunition type of their choosing. These newly proposed bans will only put law abiding citizens at more risk of not being able to properly defend themselves. These bans will only restrict law abiding citizens, not criminals or the mentally ill.

The answer to preventing more school shootings specifically is increased security, both physical barriers and human barriers. Criminals or the mentally ill will pay no attention to the "gun free zone" signs. In fact, history has shown that these gun free zones are specifically targeted by criminals and the mentally ill because they know they will be met with minimal resistance.

In closing, please recognize and support the gun rights of law abiding citizens and focus on legislation that will truly have a positive affect on gun related violence. Improved legislation should be focused towards mental illness, increased school security, regulated background checks, and gun safety education. Firearm and magazine bans will only restrict and infringe on the rights of law abiding citizens.

Respectfully,

Padriac White
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