

Dear Legislator, Unfortunately I am unable to attend this meeting but wish to strongly voice my opinion that the direction some legislators are taking in attacking the 2nd amendment in a misguided attempt to address the Newtown tragedy is troubling. Some if not most of the legislation I have read about appears to be unconstitutional and illegal and some absolutely outrageous to be coming from the mouths of elected officials who took an oath to uphold the constitution not rip it to shreds where they find it convenient to further their long held anti-gun agendas. I am hoping our legislators will not be swayed by emotionalism and a rush to knee jerk reactionism when this situation calls for a calm, thoughtful time consuming process to effectively make our kids safer while also not trampling the rights of law abiding gun owners who have done nothing wrong. My 9 year old girl Gabriella included!!!!

Short story. When I was 8 years old in 1965 my father had died. I lived alone with my mother in New Haven on Dixwell Ave. Someone smashed in our window in the dead of night and invaded our home. He told my mother to not turn on the light but she did anyway. He started coming towards her and she yelled "I have a gun". He ran out of the house. We were lucky. He didn't run because he thought she had an iron.

Fast forward to Feb 24, 1983. Two thugs invaded a home in Orange Connecticut. Upon entering they shot and brutally killed Barry Antoni, shot his father and shot his sister. Myself and another police officer entered the home immediately upon arrival not knowing if the shooters were still there. They had left. The police CANNOT PROTECT YOUR FAMILY. Dr Petit found that out also.

I BELIEVE EVERY AMERICAN HAS THE RIGHT TO DEFEND THEMSELVES AND THEIR FAMILIES. Not just with one bullet ( as one legislator has remarkably proposed), or a revolver or 6 bullets or 10 bullets. If two or three men break into my families home I want as many bullets as my gun can hold. Who is anyone to tell me how many bullets I can defend my family with?

The Brady Assault weapon ban DID nothing to curb violent crime. Since it expired murders have steadily fallen. Rifles were used in only 273 murders in the entire country last year. Columbine occurred while the Brady Bill/Assault Weapon Ban WAS IN EFFECT!. Some facts:

According to Senator Feinstein, so-called assault weapons have been used in 385 murders since the AWB expired in 2004, or about 48 murders per year.

But there were 12,626 total murders with guns in the United States in 2011, meaning so-called assault weapons were used 0.4% of the time.

This represents a decrease in murders from so-called assault weapons compared to the decade when the AWB was in effect, even though such weapons are more common today.

Further illustrating the small role so-called assault weapons play in crime, [FBI data shows](#) that 323 murders were committed with rifles of any kind in 2011.

In comparison, 496 murders were committed with hammers and clubs, and 1,694 murders were perpetrated with knives.

I want my little girl safe. I DO NOT want our legislators focusing on gun control that I know and the facts have shown will not accomplish that goal. We need police or retired police in every school, we need bullet proof glass on every school door, direct emergency lines from schools offices to police dispatchers, police should have free school meals and be encouraged to have lunch with the kids in the cafeterias or at least in school parking lots, teachers with handgun permits should be allowed to carry their handguns in school, schools should not be gun free they are now only gun free killing zones for madmen to go unopposed, schools should be checked by patrols and supervisors every half hour.

The real problem and common denominator in all these shootings is mental health problems and the use of powerful psychotropic doctor prescribed drugs by the shooter. The mental health issue and how it has been ignored and the misuse by doctors in the prescribing of powerful mind altering drugs MUST be examined. This is the one common denominator of all the shooters.

The AR –15 is the most popular rifle in the country so it is bound to be used in some crime however small( as we have seen) that number actually is. Almost 4 million were sold. They ARE NOT military rifles. They can only fire one bullet with every pull of the trigger like every other civilian gun. A gun is only a tool. A cold piece of steel. It does not walk and go off by itself. Guns are used almost every day by law abiding people to save a life, prevent a crime. I can provide hundreds of written and documented examples.

Many , many more lives are saved by guns than taken.

This state should not follow the shameful example of New York who passed unconstitutional draconian do nothing gun control in the dead of night and without public input that will only turn law abiding gun owners into criminals and confiscate millions of dollars of legally purchased guns and magazines. An absolutely stunning display of an out of control totalitarian state government that history will not look kindly upon. They trampled the rights of hundreds of thousands if not millions of law abiding people who did nothing wrong in a hysterical mad rush to blame someone, blame anything even if it violates the civil rights many find so dear and untouchable in other portions of the bill of rights.

I believe here in Connecticut we are better than that. I believe our legislators are more thoughtful, have more reasoning and are more willing to look at the big picture For the sake of my daughter Gabriella, for the sake of all our children ,I hope so. Thank you all for your time. Paul Pesticci. 57 Oxbow Lane, Northford, Ct 06472