

To Connecticut Legislators:

I am a lifelong resident of Connecticut, and have lived in Killingworth for 15 years. I am a father of three, have a degree in Mathematics and Computer Science and run a successful software company for the past 10 years that employees 15 people. I am a husband, Cub Master of Pack 18, fisherman, hunter and gun owner. I am associated with at least 50 other gun owners in my town that could not be there today... but asked me to share these topics with the legislature.

Keeping our children safe....

The Sandy Hook shooting was nothing short of horrific, evil and the most terrible thing I have ever heard of. Personally, we have friends from Newtown that lost their son that day. I cannot imagine what it must be like for the families. I think about it every day. As terrible as it is, I do think any legislation regarding gun control should be put in place until the emotions have subsided. The short term goal is to ensure our children are safe – and the fastest, best way to do that immediately, is to place an armed guard or policeman at each school where it is deemed appropriate.

Blaming the Gun...

With every shooting, the topic quickly turns to Gun Control and it dominates 99% of the TV and media coverage. I follow it very closely and have heard very little discussion about: Violence in our culture as a result of violent movies, violent video games, lack of good parenting, single parent challenges, overuse of medication and poor health coverage for mental conditions. Instead, the topic becomes, "What type of guns can we ban to prevent this from happening again?" The answer is, NONE! Banning weapons will not work, as people that are intent on doing harm will always find a way. The type gun is not the issue....

Gun Registration...

I am opposed to any type of Gun Registration program – Adam Lanza’s mother had legally owned guns and if they were registered, it would NOT have prevented this tragedy. In all cases, gun registration will simply lead to confiscation, taxes or both - and that is something I am unwilling to do. And you can bet that the criminals will not EVER register their guns.

Banning of Assault Rifles....

I personally have no use for assault rifles but still don't believe banning them will help. Here's why:

- There was a federal ban on them for 10 years starting in 1994 and it had no effect on violent crime.
- There is no good way to define an assault weapon. Most differences between that and a standard semi-auto rifle. Pistol grip, flash suppressor, bayonet holder, etc.
- Assault weapons, statistically, are not used in violent crimes as often as basic handguns. Yet the conversation has been focused on Assault Weapons. Which backs up my point – the debate is loaded with emotion and lacks clear, calm thinking.

Magazine Size....

- Nearly all semi-automatic rifles and hand guns have detachable magazines. Limiting the size of the magazine will do little to prevent violent crime – it takes less than 1 second to change the magazine.
- A magazine is little more than a tin box and a spring – they can easily be manufactured by any handyman.
- I wrote Senator Meyer in March of 2011 regarding SB 1094 – Large Capacity Magazines. Putting legislation in effect that will turn law abiding citizens into felons overnight is not the type of state I want to be part of. In most cases, guns are used for good – in the prevention and avoidance of crime. (I can personally attest to this) See his response below. And while he has recently changed his mind, I did agree with his response below.

From Senator Meyer [mailto:senator.meyer@leg.state.ct.us] Sent: Monday, March 28, 2011 11:22 AM To: Paul Pitts Subject: RE: SB 1094


Dear Mr. Pitts,

Thanks for your recent email expressing support for the bill to reduce the state's legal size of detachable magazine from more than ten rounds. While I do not have it yet gone to a vote, I do intend to vote against it for several reasons. First, this bill does not take large magazine sized handguns off the streets and so it does not appear to be a good use of resources in restriction on a means for self defense. Secondly, that bill would take away from your freedom and autonomy that you have acquired at considerable expense, a taking that is not constitutionally justified, especially in light of the treatment of those who use them for self defense, and that makes no sense at all. Again, appreciate your sharing your views, these, and I believe that my view, reflect that you have expressed.

Ed Meyer  
State Senator

In Closing....

I urge you to put politics aside, take short term action to protect our children by placing some type of guards in schools, and then carefully review what many experts have provided on this topic and then put forth meaningful legislation that will be helpful in the long run, such as: Tougher sentencing for people that commit crimes with guns and a better review process of felons that are released from prison (Eg: Petit Murders), these are topics we can all get behind that will improve the safety of our children and state. Law abiding gun owners should not be victimized by criminals' misuse of firearms!

Sincerely,		Paul Pitts 69 Bar Gate Trail, Killingworth, CT 06419
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