

Robert M. Olson

**Testimony on Subject of School Safety
Testimony on Subject of Mental Health
Testimony in Opposition to Any New Firearms Regulations**

Dear Committee Members,

I would like to thank you all for the opportunity to provide written testimony regarding the above subjects.

As a lifelong resident of the State of Connecticut, I have never felt as compelled as I do today to contact you, as well as all of my representatives regarding what I believe are three issues of paramount importance.

Issue One: Firearms in Schools.

I am speaking to you as a responsible, hard working parent with a ten year old daughter. We were all shocked at what happened at Sandy Hook. The perpetrator of this horror broke a multitude of good-intentioned laws that many people, unfortunately, believe will prevent such a thing from happening. It does not. Governor Malloy and many other politicians at all levels are *absolutely wrong* when it comes to the issue of firearms in schools. Any responsible adult with a valid Connecticut pistol permit should be able to be armed in any Connecticut school.

It is the height of hypocrisy for us to guard our money, our politicians (and in some cases, *their* children) with firearms, and *our* children only with good intentions. **The federal *Gun Free School Zones Act* and accompanying Connecticut state laws should be repealed in their entirety.** We have been trying this idea since 1996, and all it has brought us is more disaster, heartache, and a platform to push more laws. It is past time for fresh thinking on this subject, our children deserve no less.

Issue Two: Mental Health and the Pharmaceutical Industry.

There are larger and much more difficult issues at play within society that have nothing to do with firearms. Semi-automatic firearms have been around since the late 1800's. Expanded capacity firearms have been around almost as long. Until the late 1980's, and especially Columbine, there was almost nothing of the kind of nonsense we are seeing happening in our schools today. So what has changed? The firearms? Or is it family structure? Our inability or unwillingness to commit people who have homicidal mental issues? The administration of dangerous SSRI drugs to children because they behave like...children?

Issue Two: Mental Health and the Pharmaceutical Industry (Continued).

I did notice that there was no mention in the news media about pharmaceutical industry representatives attending Vice President Biden's 'Gun Violence Task Force'. Why? I am willing to bet that their products have had a hand in almost all of these events. **There should be a thorough investigation into these products (SSRI's), and the impact they have on the children that take them.**

Issue Three: Our Constitutionally Protected Rights.

All of the above being said, I expect my representatives to oppose any further infringements of my rights protected under the 2nd Amendment of the US Constitution, and under Section 15 of the 1965 Connecticut Constitution. Covered under those rights are firearms, magazines for firearms of varying capacity, and ammunition. I stated to my representatives that I *will not* support any politician who votes to limit what I can own. I have stated to my representatives that I *will not* support any politician who votes to place further hindrances on the purchase of firearms, magazines, and ammunition. I have stated to my representatives that I *will* support in every way that I can, the opponent(s) of said politicians who vote against my rights, including those outside of my own district.

All of these problems regarding 'gun violence' were supposed to have been solved with the federal Gun Control Act of 1968. Understanding history and seeing where things are going today, I must speak out in the strongest terms against any further erosion of the rights of responsible citizens.

In our Constitutional Republic, biased public opinion polls cannot be allowed to override our constitutionally protected natural rights. Are we really going to run our government on popular opinion and emotion instead of what is right and protected under our Constitution?

Thank you for your time.

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