

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing to you to voice my concern of the many proposals for gun control and restrictions. I am a fire arm owner, have a permit and former Federal Law Enforcement.

I have much empathy for the tragedy that took place in Newtown and the many other victims of crimes that involving firearms that take place daily in our state.

I feel that our state and federal government is heading in the wrong direction by taking the "we must do something if we can save one life" approach. I feel in CT we can address the issues by saving many lives. I feel the state turns its back on the many victims by recent cutting 18 million dollars allocated to the DCF and 8 million dollars to the Department of Mental Services in order to balance the State budget. I feel that this money is greatly needed in these areas to address mental illness and domestic violence.

These proposed bills do not prevent the next Newtown. They hurt the law abiding citizens by making them instant criminals. Limiting magazine capacities, dictating what kind of fire arm I can and can't posses, placing a heft tax and high permit fees clearly infringes on my right to bear arms which is a direct violation of the 2ND amendment of the US Constitution.

When I was in law enforcement, I dealt with thousands of criminals on a daily basis. They will stop at nothing to get what they want at all costs. I feel the state did injustice by instituting the early release program for convicted criminals. The amount of crimes and violence has increased. A prime example is the Chesire home invasion. That family was beaten, raped, murdered and set on fire by early release convicts. I can't say that if Mr. Petit had a fire arm it would have prevented loss of life but I can say that to save a buck for CT this was the result.

I ask you to oppose all Bills that violate the State and US Constitutions and preserve our rights as Americans to defend ourselves.

Thank you,

Robert Neill
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Norwich, CT