

To Whom It May Concern:

I have been a lawful gun owner since I was legally able to own firearms. I am an avid bird hunter and pistol shooter. What happened in our state in Newtown, CT was a tragedy beyond comprehension. All the citizens in Connecticut ,in fact in the United States and abroad have been adversely affected by this traumatic event.

That being said, it is concerning to me that the rush to punish the legal gun owner, of which there are many, is but a rash measure to solve a much larger problem. I would agree that there is no need to own an assault weapon or a magazine for that weapon, which could hold 30 rounds. I submit it is not the need gun owners are concerned about, but the choice. I imagine that if you traced the ownership of these firearms you would find that the owners are those that like to target shoot. Certain handguns can be considered “assault pistols” yet the majority of pistol owners enjoy target shooting at the various ranges Connecticut has to offer. I would be the first to agree with gun control supporters that stricter laws to ensure that tragedies like Newtown will never happen again. I do believe background checks, psychological information and better follow up for renewals of these licenses should be conducted. I also agree that laws pertaining to gun ownership should be enforced.

In terms of the definition of an assault weapon, it is fearful to the legal gun owner that the definition can be expanded to any weapon that shoots multiple rounds. In World War II the Garand M-1 was our country’s basic infantry weapon. It held an 8 round “clip” and was used in both the European and Pacific theatres. This is a very historic weapon in which the United States defeated two of the most dangerous opponents America has ever had. Yet this weapon can be considered an assault weapon. It was designed for military use, holds multiple rounds, and shoots with very pull of the trigger. This weapon has usually been passed down from generation to generation and is not just considered a gun, but an heirloom. The gun owner is afraid the “assault weapon” definition will be used for more and more firearms until no one will be able to own any gun.

I can only attempt to give you a sense of the potential repercussions in the excessive taxing of ammunition and the limiting of magazine capacity. Our citizens are already talking of moving from the state, taking great steps to purchase ammunition out of state, and other harsh measures which will not make Connecticut the lovely place it is to live in.

Thank You for your time,

***Ron Cox***

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