

Sirs and Madams,

I write to you in opposition to any gun legislation that will further encroach on my second amendment rights. In thinking about the issues involved, it is useful to consider the problem of Driving Under the Influence of Alcohol or any other substances. According to MADD, there are an average of ten thousand deaths per year over the last two years. These are only the fatalities. There are thousands more accidents, in which individuals are injured, many permanently disabled. It is also the case that there are very strict laws regarding DUIs, carrying serious penalties.

Why do I bring up the issue of DUIs? Because, to my knowledge, no one has proposed that we outlaw alcohol or certain kinds of alcohol, nor that we outlaw motor vehicles or certain types of motor vehicles. It is particularly important that no one has done so since there is no constitutional right to drink or to drink. Instead, we insist that citizens behave responsibly, not consuming alcohol if they are driving, and punish them if they fail to comply with this requirement.

It is deeply problematic that the unfortunate events at Newtown have polarized two groups who really want the same thing--a safer CT and country, but who disagree about the means of accomplishing this worthy goal. Those asking for the AWB demonize law abiding citizens who own guns as if they are the enemy. I humbly submit that they are not. The vast majority of them are just like anyone else, just like the people who demonize them, with the exception of their gun ownership. The real enemy are criminals who take lives without remorse as well as the mentally disturbed who everyone agrees should not have access to firearms.

Please focus your efforts on better identification of those individuals who pose a risk and how to provide better security for our children (and our citizens) before proposing more laws that would not have prevented the Newtown tragedy, nor make us any safer.

Thank you,
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