

I would like to offer a statement on the direction the state legislative body should pursue in addressing the state of gun violence in CT and the US in general. Let me say that I am a CCW permit holder for over 30 years, that my family competes on the local and national level in the shooting sports and that I actively vote. The emotional climate created following the Newtown shooting has dictated that politicians will push more legislation forward to prove that they were willing to address what is perceived as a cure to the problem. Opinions will be thrown about by both extremes of the argument as if they were fact. Data generated by the FBI showing a drop in gun related fatalities following the demise of the last "Assault Rifle Ban" are pushed aside by studies financed by groups with an agenda. Either agenda. Statistics from Britain and Australia are cherry picked to prove a point with any nonconforming statistics on increases in violent crime dismissed as not applicable to the discussion. The failure of Bans, Gun Registration Programs, or restrictions here and abroad do not seem to alter the push for new laws here that will only affect the law abiding citizens of CT and the US. Every incident used to push the controls sought by primarily democratic liberal lawmakers involved many broken laws BEFORE the killings were carried out. How can you honestly say with a straight face that new restrictions will result in a different ending? Those of a mindset to kill will find a tool. Did we address diesel sales and rental truck usage with crippling taxes or restrictions when they were used in an illegal manner to take more lives in one blast, including many children there as well, in OK.

As the committees meet I would ask that emotions be controlled and that the understanding that any legislation presented will have impact lasting far longer than the feel good glow present at the time it is written. Unintended consequences WILL occur. They too need to be addressed less than the user and the causes that drove them there. CT already had many of the proposals I have seen presented on the national level. Adding private long gun sales to the background NICS clearance if handled as the current private handgun sale process will work only as well as the database information is accurate. Requiring all transfers to pass through a licensed dealer creates a financial burden to passing on family heirlooms unless a reasonable cap is placed on the fees charged now for FFL transfers or an alternate access to the check system is available. Most dealers charge \$75 + per transfer for interstate purchases now. If magazine limits are imposed who will compensate the current owners for the value of their possessions purchased legally (and Taxed at the time of sale) and for the loss of use of the firearm if no acceptable magazine is produced? Does CT have the money in these economic times to afford this when the funds could be used to help the citizens in need of treatment instead? As the site of the catalyst for this wave of feel good legislation we need to show the nation a reasoned response not an Emotional one. To punish hundreds of thousands of law abiding citizens for the illegal actions of a few is poor government. How about enforcing the laws already on the books. When Sen. Meyers proposes a bill to limit ALL guns to single shot (SB-122) to return us as close to the firearms in vogue at the time the 2nd amendment was passed (his words not mine) can we really take this as a reasoned and well thought out response to the tragedy? Does he realize that the rifled guns he refers to WERE the Assault weapons of the day! The British were using much less accurate smoothbore muskets and relied on volley fire in large numbers to be effective. Below I list my opinions on the merits of the bills currently introduced.

Strongly Support:

HB-5165
HB-5466

HB-5176
HB-5468

HB-5179

HB-5269

HB-5377

Strongly OPPOSE:

HB-5112
SB-122

HB5-268
SB-124

HB-5452
SB-140

SB-1
SB-161

SB-42

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