

A citizen opposed to Bills: # 161, 124, 140, 5268 et. Al.

By Russell G Lowry
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Ladies & Gentlemen,

Thank you for your time today.

I've had a pistol permit for nearly 30 years. Originally because I was persuaded that going on an adventure to hunt wild boar with a pistol would be exciting. It was; then I felt bad about killing the animal and traded my Clint Eastwood massive revolver for a small caliber pistol and switched to occasional paper target shooting. My target pistol carried 12 rounds. Not because I asked for it, it just came that way.

Only in the last few years did I even think about a gun for personal protection. Then along came Senator Looney's proposal to call me a criminal if I did not voluntarily scrap a thousand dollars worth of property. Thanks to his effort, here was my response:

1. Joined the NRA,
2. Joined the CCDL, Ct. Citizen Defense League
3. Joined the IDPA, International Defensive Pistol Association
4. Donated funds against his re-election,
5. Started competing in concealed carry defensive shooting competitions,
6. Bought another gun,
6. Took off from work today to express my concern for the behavior of some of you and the bills that have been introduced.

Because you people scare me. Let me be clear I never had any fear of "my government" or any feeling that someday I would have to defend myself against it. I still don't feel that way. BUT, when you start talking about banning and confiscating and calling me a criminal and declaring eminent domain over my property, you get my attention.

I have been very disappointed to read the ideas in the various gun related Bills that have been presented in recent weeks.

Each fails to be supported by any evidence scientific, statistical or even anecdotal to support the author's inference that this would reduce gun violence or make anyone safe. Each fails to recognize the simplest truth that the world around us has become a more dangerous place. If you want to make it a safer place, then do two things.

- 1) Protect those that can not protect themselves
- 2) Stop building bad guys. Start building a culture that glorifies and uplifts acts of courage, good will and kindness and punishes acts of violence and bad will, clearly and consistently.

When I was a kid, we left our car keys in the ignition; they were easier to find that way. No one had a garage door opener because the garage was never closed in the first place. But if you went

to an "R" rated movie, you had to be at least 17 and you were carded at the door. We generally knew what was good and what was not. We were taught to be trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean and reverent. What do we teach today? Apparently not the pledge of allegiance, civic responsibility or anybody's version of tell the truth otherwise we might not have had to put 7 mayors and a governor in jail.

Folks, behavior is being modified. Guns are not doing it. You know people with well behaved kids and you know those whose kids are really unpleasant to be around. Like it or not, both the fun kids and the not fun kids were taught to be that way. Now let's raise the stakes, the potential for really bad behavior. Studies have shown that the adolescent brain does not develop its decision making right vs. wrong skills until much later in life. Yet, we inundate those brains with ideas and imagery that are basically evil, teach them to devalue life and then wonder why some behave that way.

Studies of prison inmates show that they can tell you where they would never go to commit the same crime that put them in jail in the first place because of the harsh penalties there. Yet by your various Bills you want to teach them there are no guns here and no death penalty either. The bad guys go where the odds are in their favor. You are changing behavior the wrong way.

You can literally watch the traffic on 91 slow down when we broadcast that the police are going to be all over the place. Clearly the PENALTY for ILLEGAL behavior (speeding) works as a deterrent and behavior is changed.

Look around you today, you have armed guards protecting this place, armed guards protecting, big banks, protecting court houses, protecting federal buildings and armed guard protecting large commercial buildings. Clearly somebody thinks there is a deterrent effect with armed guards.

Now look around at the rash of small town bank robberies in the last couple years, the inner city shootings in Bridgeport, New Haven and Hartford, the shootings at Columbine, the Colorado movie theater, Virginia Tech, and Sandy Hook elementary school and what do they all have in common. No armed guards, no GOOD armed presence whatsoever and we broadcast that fact to the world.

I can think of 3 things that adversely effect safety as it relates to using a gun illegally and violently.

1. we are teaching our children to be violent, via violence in all forms of media and a lack of parental guidance to avoid such media.
2. we are allowing unstable and bad people to gain access to guns.
3. we are afraid to penalize the bad and glorify the good.

Instead of addressing public safety, these Bills offer irrational, emotional, completely unsupported ideas with no penalty for the bad guys, scare the good guys and create a tidal wave of new gun ownership. Manufacturers can't even handle the flood of new gun orders because of your behavior, and those like you, and the reaction that behavior engenders among those you've targeted. Behavior is being modified. You are arming the population by demonstrating that you

can not be trusted to create a safe environment and further that you do not value the freedoms of the people who elected you.

I strongly object to all bills that propose to take away property and rights from the legal, law abiding citizens, by any means including but not limited to bans, confiscation or confiscatory taxation and/or fees.

I support all bills that propose to strengthen the penalty for illegal activity.

It seems to me that over time too many of our elected representatives have given up the set of shared values we lived by in favor of doing what is politically expedient and the voting public has let them. Reading these Bills, I can only conclude that their sponsors are shamefully exploiting the emotions brought forth by the Sandy Hook shooting in order to curry favor with citizens who would reelect them. They are concurrently using the media to misinform and mischaracterize the majority of gun owners to support these personal agendas. They should be removed from office.

Thank you,

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