

Esteemed Members of the Committee,

Though it may feel good and be popular to find a scapegoat during times of tragedy, it more often than not does more harm than good. It is undeniably the duty of all elected officials to promote the US and Connecticut Constitutions as they were intended. Rather than attacking the rights of free citizens, it is your responsibility to bring to light the true reasons for these atrocities and research viable, proactive, methods of preventing and raising awareness to why these things happen. Though the reasons are complex, the short truth is that people commit awful crimes and they are solely to blame for their actions. Laws simply define crime, they do not prevent crime. Increasing penalties and restricting the rights of citizens are not a deterrent for crime. A responsible and educated citizenry is the best defense against those intent upon doing harm to others. As a father of two young boys, watching recent events unfold has caused me a significant amount of grief in my heart, as I am sure in yours as well. My thoughts and prayers go out to all the victims and their families.

Connecticut in general has very strict firearms laws already on the books; they also have some of the most stringent laws in order to legally purchase firearms. Only well intentioned, law abiding citizens would comply with these proposed laws, which would put them at a disadvantage against violent criminals who most certainly would not abide by such legislation. Areas like Chicago have extremely strict gun laws and subsequently have very high violent crime rates. The good people have no good way to defend themselves against those that intend them harm.

I feel that responsible gun owners would be at a great disadvantage if magazine restriction or "assault weapon" legislation would be enacted. These guns are very useful for protecting ourselves and families. I want the best possible tool to protect the ones I love.

I believe that increasing school security and mental health assistance and treatment would have a more positive effect of the safety of our children. Responsible gun owners are not now and have never been a cause of crime in our society.

Thank you,

Ryan Dubey

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