

Dear Sir or Madam:

I am unable to attend the public hearing on gun violence prevention due to the fact that I am in school studying to become a Paramedic, so I am providing a written log of my opposition to the proposed gun control measures that have begun in this state. The Sandy Hook tragedy was one of the greatest atrocities that I have ever seen. Adam Lanza violated numerous statutes when he committed his heinous crimes. He was not a legal gun owner. He murdered his mother to get the weapons that he used. Myself along with thousands of other gun owners across the state had to sit and watch in horror and while doing so we violated no laws. While we never violated a law that day many elected public officials took the stand and promised to strip us of our rights, even though we did nothing wrong.

It should not be up to the government to decide what types of firearms and magazine sizes that the legal gun owners of this state and nation can own. This decision is a personal one that each and every law-abiding citizen is empowered to make through our federal and state constitution. It should be up to me if I own a firearm and if so what type and how many. A citizen may need a semi automatic firearm with a standard capacity magazine to ward off an attack consisting of multiple assailants. Standard capacity magazines have been demonized because people have begun calling them "high capacity". When being assaulted the assailant is on the offensive and can dictate the course of events, when you are defending yourself, you have no idea what is going to happen and therefore you have no idea when you are going to be able to reload if it is required.

Furthermore, the need for such equipment would arise if one of the rounds does not fire during a self-defense scenario causing the user of the firearm to have even less ammunition to protect himself. Certain countries and political subdivisions around the world have outlawed the possession of firearms in hopes of lowering violent crime.

However, violent crime has increased in these areas.

I am strongly opposed to outlawing the possession of standard capacity magazines and semi automatic rifles with a pistol grip such as the popular AR-15 rifle. I am opposed to creating a mandatory registry of firearms. The only difference between these rifles and any other semi-automatic rifle are cosmetic features that have no bearing on how the fire arm functions. I am opposed to any law that would force me to buy liability insurance for my firearms and raise the taxes on ammunition. I am opposed to making my pistol permit information public. .

Outlawing and confiscating certain firearms and high capacity magazines is not the answer to reduce gun violence. It is only a misguided approach in a quest for unobtainable safety. More gun control laws will only make the citizens of Connecticut less free and less secure. We had an "Assault Weapons" ban in this country for 10 years and there is no evidence that can say that it had any success in lowering violence. Illinois has some of the most restrictive gun laws in the nation where it is virtually illegal to own a firearm. Even so Chicago surpassed 500 murders in 2012. Gun control simply does not work. This is true because firearms are nothing more than a tool, they can do nothing on their own, they must be acted on by a human. Thank You for your time.

Sincerely,
Ryan Kerr