

Good morning fellow citizens and members of the committee,

My name is Sam Winters, I am a 25 year old licensed electrician and entrepreneur from Columbia CT. I am also a gun owner, competitive shooter, property owner, and tax payer. I am here to voice my staunch opposition to the majority of the proposed bills before the committee today, specifically:

HB-5647: AN ACT CONCERNING HIGH CAPACITY FIREARMS.

Members of the committee, I urge you to dismiss all legislation concerning the limiting of magazine capacities in the state of Connecticut. There is no evidence showing that a limit to the number of rounds in a magazine will have any effect on the number of rounds an individual can fire in an incident like the Newtown massacre. As a competitive shooter and enthusiast, I know from experience that the continuous rate of fire from a semi automatic firearm is not greatly effected by limits in magazine capacity. A 10 round magazine can be ejected, changed, and a new projectile chambered, in less time than it will take for me to finish this sentence. Legislation like the proposed bill will only limit the law abiding citizen's ability to defend himself. Are there limits to the magazine capacity of a state trooper's personal defense weapon? Are we as citizens not likely to encounter the same threats from criminals as a law enforcement officer? Would the maniacs in Newtown Connecticut, Virginia Tech, Aurora Colorado, and Tuscon Arizona been any less deadly if they had possessed multiple 10-round magazines instead of 30-round magazines? No, they would not. I would also like to point out to the committee that these magazines are NOT high capacity magazines, they are STANDARD capacity magazines. Several months ago I purchased a Glock 17 9mm pistol for competition, one of the most popular handguns in the US. That pistol came new in the box with 3 17-round magazines. These pistols and all others like it are designed by the manufacturer to accept these magazines, they are not modified to do so, they are not aftermarket. By limiting the magazine capacity in our state, the legislature will put a burden on these manufacturers that will likely force them to stop selling their product to vendors within our state. Decrease in business like this is not beneficial to the state of Connecticut's economy or to it's citizens.

Again, I urge the committee to dismiss all legislation limiting magazine capacities in Connecticut.

SB-501: AN ACT CONCERNING THE BAN ON ASSAULT WEAPONS.

I am also strongly opposed to any amendments to Sec. 53-202a of the Connecticut General Statutes which would seek to re-define the classification of assault weapons in the state of Connecticut. Many of the features on these weapons which classify them as "assault weapons" are harmless cosmetic features and add nothing to the lethality of said weapons. Connecticut has a thriving gun and gun parts manufacturing economy, Sturm Ruger, Colt, Stag Arms, and others all call this state home. By banning the manufacture and sale of these weapons in the state of Connecticut the legislature will be putting an unnecessary burden on these companies and their employees, perhaps forcing them to seek business opportunities in other, more gun friendly states. Can the state of Connecticut afford to lose any more jobs than we already have? I also urge the committee to consider how few crimes are committed with these weapons, and to consider that the vast majority of owners of these weapons do so for collection, target and competitive shooting, and YES HUNTING.

HB-5268: AN ACT REQUIRING THE MAINTENANCE OF LIABILITY INSURANCE BY FIREARM OWNERS AND ESTABLISHING A SALES TAX ON AMMUNITION.

I, as a gun owner, find this bill outrageously offensive. No firearm of mine has ever committed an act of aggression against anything any more than a piece of cardboard. That the state would consider forcing me to insure my firearms is an insult, and an assault on legal firearms owners. I also find it pathetic that the state would seek to further tax ammunition, I pay thousands of dollars in taxes every year to the state in the form of income, property, and sales taxes, vehicle registrations, fees, and licensing. When will the state be satisfied? Seemingly not until every productive citizen of the state relocates to a less tax burdensome state than ours.

HB-5112: AN ACT CONCERNING THE DISCLOSURE OF THE NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF PERSONS HOLDING HANDGUN PERMITS.

It would seem to me that this proposed bill would seek to liken law abiding gun owning citizens to sex offenders and treat them as such? I advise the committee to review the recent political and legal fallout from the Journal News' decision to publish maps with the names and addresses of gun owners in Rockland and Westchester counties NY.

In closing: Honorary committee members, I consider myself an upstanding, productive citizen of the state of Connecticut, for the past 5 years, I have worked 8-12 hours a day, 5 to 6, sometimes 7 days a week every week in some of the dirtiest industrial settings across this great state. I have spent hundreds of hours studying building codes and law to better myself in my career path. Why? Because I someday wish to be able to own my own electrical

contracting business. I made close to \$60,000 last year, I paid taxes on that. Right now, I own a house and 3 vehicles. I pay registration, taxes, and insurance on all of that.

If the state of Connecticut passes any of the aforementioned legislation, I, and all the revenue and business I generate for this state, will be forced to consider packing my things, selling my home, and moving to a state that can provide me with the freedoms that I demand. I urge the committee, please, do not punish some of the most productive members of our society for the actions of one psychopath.

God Bless the children and families of Sandy Hook, thank you and have a good day.