

Greetings,

I wanted to submit in writing that I am strongly against any new legislation that is being currently proposed on both the federal and state levels. The horror that happened at New Town not only shocked and hurt the state but the Nation. I don't think there's anyone that wasn't truly moved by what happened. The incident definitely changed the world that most people live in, and I agree that change is necessary. This change though has to be well thought out and effective. The currently legislative movement is not thought out, it's not effective. The facts in this case have not been fully released so how can you make laws to correct them if you don't know the whole story. I am sure that many of you are already set in your mind and don't want to listen to what the constituents have to say, but here is my opinion.

As we have seen in the case of Newtown the media was extremely inaccurate with its reporting. There are tons of misinformation and rumors that the truth of the story is clouded. Everyone is acting based on emotion and not on the facts of the case. You are constantly saying that you want to help and protect the children but yet you do things that directly contradict that. Every year we hear about state funding being cut for school programs. You are packing more kids in one class room, cutting teaching and resource officers. How does this help the children? If you want to help with violence you need to get to the bottom of what is the cause of the violence not a knee-jerk reaction to the outcomes. You need to put more resources in the school that will deal with bullying, special needs, and trouble kids. Gangs in schools is also running high, however there is very little being done on the school levels to lower these numbers. More activities and clubs are needed to keep kids off the streets and out of gangs.

Connecticut already has some of the toughest gun laws in the country, however there very little done to enforce the laws already on the record. Criminals are given more rights than the legitimate gun owners. You are making all of us criminals when we have done nothing wrong. Criminals though who have been convicted of crimes are release early from their sentence. You reward them for good behavior even though they have had violent tendencies. In the case of the Cheshire home invasion, both of them were release early only to commit that horrendous crime. What is the public's reaction? Let's get rid of the death penalty so that they don't have to pay for their crimes. Now I am not naive enough to say that in either the Newtown or Cheshire case a gun on scene would have stopped the crime, but there is a chance that it might have and innocent lives might have been saved. Criminals are protected from double jeopardy, so they can't be charged with the same crime twice, yet as legislators you keep trying to pass the same bill over and over, or with pieces mixed in multiple bills. You are basically putting licensed gun owners in double jeopardy but the criminals who have done violent acts don't have to face their crimes. It should you for you to prove how these bills will improve our lives not for us to have to defend ourselves.

I just wanted to touch on some of the proposed bills and why these are ineffective:

Bill 601-AN ACT CONCERNING THE DEFINITION OF ASSAULT WEAPON.

The rifles in question are not assault rifles as many people are trying to make them out to be. The true "military" rifles that you are looking at are fully automatic machine guns. These are already banned and require special licensing to own which is extremely hard to acquire. The evil "features" are just downright silly. A flash hider,

does not make a rifle more or less lethal nor does it change the operation of the rifle, however it's already on the evil list. Problem is flash hiders don't do much. They screw onto the end of your muzzle and divert the flash off to the side instead of it doesn't actually hide the flash from anybody else. A collapsible stock, again doesn't change the rifle operation to make or more/less effective. These rifles "AR-15" are sporting rifles that are used for target and home defense. If these weapons are so evil why does every police department have them, for defending and protecting themselves against an assailant, however you don't want licensed responsible owners having them. Do you think that the criminal that's intent on doing harm to someone is honestly going to turn in these rifles? So you are giving criminals who are intent on breaking the law these rifles but not the law abiding citizen. Problem was, none of these features actually made the gun functionally any different or somehow more lethal or better from any other run of the mill firearm. Most of the criteria were so silly that they became a huge joke to gun owners, except of course, for that part where many law abiding citizens accidentally became instant felons because one of their guns had some cosmetic feature which was now illegal.

SB-611 - AN ACT CONCERNING THE FEE FOR ISSUANCE AND RENEWAL OF A STATE PERMIT TO CARRY A PISTOL OR REVOLVER. Also the Proposed bill on an Increase Tax on ammunition.

How will this prevent violence? This is just a way for the state to balance the budget without any effective measure on reducing the violence. The ability to protect yourself should not be just for the rich. Everyone has the right to protect themselves, by raising the cost will not only be a burden on the rich but the poor legal gun owners, who again did nothing wrong to deserve to be punished.

SB-615 - AN ACT PROHIBITING THE DISCHARGE OF FIREARMS NEAR PRIVATE RESIDENCES.

This bill is absolutely silly, if a home owner god forbid has to use their gun in self-defense to protect their life or a loved one, you have just made them a criminal. The point of the firearm is for self-defense but you are taking away the home owners ability to effectively defend themselves.

HB-5452 AN ACT REQUIRING GUN OWNERS TO CARRY LIABILITY INSURANCE

This bill is also very ineffective. As legislators you say you want to pass bills to help protect and stop violence. Please explain to me how this achieves this in anyway. This is just another way to tax the legit gun owners. Do you think criminals are really going to abide by this law? Not only does it add undue burden but you are asking gun owners to get insurance, which there is no such policy offered. So effectively making it illegal to own the gun if you don't have the insurance, that doesn't even exist.

HB-5647 AN ACT CONCERNING HIGH CAPACITY FIREARMS.

These 30 round magazines are again not a problem. A criminal intent on doing mass harm will just have more than one small mag, how would banning any of these be effective in stopping violence. This just means an evil person would carry more mags and reload.

No. 122 Limiting guns to only one round

This has to be one of the most ridiculous bill I've read. You are severely limiting not only sportsman, hunters and legit gun owners from defending or functioning without a

lot of hassle. Again Criminals aren't going to follow this law so you are limiting the ability of legit gun owners to protect themselves. As with any stressful situation there's a chance that your first shot could miss or not be effective in stopping an assault. Another situation is if you have more than one assailant, one shot might not be effective in protecting yourself in that situation.

I urge you as representatives of our communities in government to think with your heads and not just with emotions. If you want things improve you need to get the root cause of the violence not just react against people that have not done anything wrong. Keep in mind the S.M.A.R.T principle. Any law should be Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant, Timely, If you look at the stats from the FBI in 2011 more people were killed with hands and feet then these "evil" rifles that you are trying to ban. Below I attached an interesting blog post by a NYTimes best selling writer.

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