

For the attention of legislators at the 1/28 hearing:

My name is Siobhan Crise and I am a Connecticut resident.

I urge you to find meaningful action points that can be agreed on by all parties as soon as possible. I ask you to take this issue piece by piece and identify the ground rules that everyone approves of first: felons should not be allowed to own weapons - agreed; under eighteens- should not be permitted to buy handguns - agreed... etc.

With reasonable and sensible discussion, common ground can be established before we inch towards aspects of gun legislation which divide opinions.

Nothing is going to prevent a person who is determined to take another person's life from doing so, short of lifetime preventative incarceration. However, we can and should put up as many obstacles as possible to prevent their path to murder. Please make it hard for those with criminal intent from obtaining weaponry that should only be in the hands of law enforcement and the military.

Rep. Larry Cafero told me that he doesn't believe that rushing to act on the gun issue 'based on emotions alone' will serve anyone properly. I agree that a kneejerk emotional response won't work in the long run; however I would argue that there *is* a rush. There is clearly an urgency to fix the laws.

Rep. Cafero says that banning or mandating does not solve the problem; he says several drugs are illegal and that does not stop the buying and selling of those drugs. No - but those laws do make it harder. If I want to buy cocaine, I can't stop by Walgreens and stock up. There are hurdles - laws - which stop me.

Please put up some obstacles to prevent easy access to weaponry by the criminally-minded.

Now is the opportunity for Connecticut to show the nation that reasonable discussion can lead to sensible measures to prevent the continued tragic loss of life.

Sincerely

Siobhan Crise

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