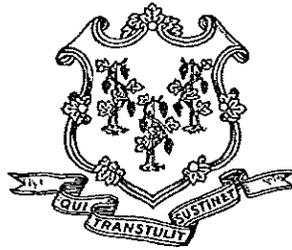


SENATOR BETH BYE

Fifth District

Legislative Office Building
Room 3100
Hartford, CT 06106-1591
Tel. (860) 240-0428
www.SenatorBye.cga.ct.gov



State of Connecticut
SENATE

Chair
Higher Education & Employment
Advancement Committee
Vice Chair
Education Committee
Member
Appropriations Committee
Judiciary Committee

January 28, 2013

**Testimony of Beth Bye, State Senator, to the Gun Violence Prevention Subcommittee
of the Bipartisan Task Force on Gun Violence Prevention and Children's Safety**

Good Afternoon Senator Looney, Representative Miner, and members of the panel. My name is Beth Bye, and I am State Senator from the 5th District -- representing Burlington, Bloomfield, Farmington, and West Hartford.

Since 26 children and educators were murdered in Newtown, at least 1305* men, women, and children across the United States have been killed by a firearm.

I say this at the start of my testimony because one phrase you hear throughout the day is that the gun safety proposals which have already been submitted, and the gun safety proposals this committee will recommend are a knee-jerk reaction to a single terrible event.

They are not.

Another common refrain you may hear is that the submitted proposals are a punitive way to capitalize upon the emotions of a tragedy, and that we cannot act while our minds are clouded by the fact that there is not enough distance between then and now to act capably.

We can.

You will hear that more people are killed by cars than guns. But, we heavily regulate cars. And because we do so, gun deaths will surpass car deaths by as early as 2015. **

You'll hear that if we regulate guns we must also regulate knives and baseball bats, because they are dangerous weapons. But the bottom line is that guns are much more efficient at killing people, and were created for this purpose. For these facts alone they deserve special scrutiny.

Finally, you will hear that more guns equals better security. But these comments will ignore the reality that the mere presence of a firearm in a home dramatically increases the likelihood of a member of the house dying by murder or suicide. And they will also discard the desire of those, who never wish to own a weapon, not to engage in an arms race as the cost of quietly living their lives safely.

The second half of the Second Amendment states quite succinctly that "...the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed." But, the first five words of the First Amendment state just as forcefully that "Congress shall make no law..." Yet, if all the Aurora, Colorado shooter did that night was yell "fire" in the crowded theater, he would have been subject to arrest.



General Assembly
January Session, 2013

Proposed Bill No. 140
LCO No. 822

Referred to Committee on FINANCE, REVENUE AND BONDING

Introduced by:

SEN. BYE, 5th Dist.

REP. GODFREY, 110th Dist.

AN ACT CONCERNING LIABILITY INSURANCE FOR FIREARM OWNERS AND SALES TAX ON AMMUNITION.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

That the general statutes be amended to (1) require firearm owners to maintain liability insurance, and (2) establish a sales tax on the sale of ammunition at a rate of fifty per cent on the entire sales price, except such sales tax shall not apply to the sale of ammunition at a firing or shooting range, provided such sale is made to and used by the purchaser at the firing or shooting range during the same visit as the purchase.

Statement of Purpose:

To require firearm owners to maintain liability insurance and establish a sales tax on the sale of ammunition at a rate of fifty per cent.



General Assembly
January Session, 2013

Proposed Bill No. 478
LCO No. 2209

Referred to Committee on HUMAN SERVICES

Introduced by:

SEN. BYE, 5th Dist.

REP. GODFREY, 110th Dist.

AN ACT CONCERNING MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG ADULTS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

That the general statutes be amended to require: (1) The Healthcare Advocate to assist persons with information concerning mental health services, including reimbursement for services and referrals, (2) professional development training for teachers and other school employees concerning the signs of children's behavioral, social and emotional health issues that would warrant a referral for services, (3) school boards to establish a relationship with providers of community-based mental health services, (4) the Departments of Mental Health and Addiction Services and Children and Families to provide services for young adults including school-based mental health services, and (5) the Departments of Mental Health and Addiction Services and Children and Families to identify hospital beds and supportive housing units available for children and young adults with mental health needs.

Statement of Purpose:

To provide proactive mental health services for the children and young adults with the greatest need.