

To my Connecticut State Senators and State Representatives,

My name is Steven Wawruck III. I am twenty three years old, and currently reside in Newington, CT. I am currently a full time student at Central Connecticut State University, as well as a full time Range Safety Officer at Hoffman's Gun Center and Indoor Range. Prior to attending CCSU, I served four years active duty in the United States Marine Corps as an Infantryman with 1st Battalion 3rd Marines, Weapons Company; I have participated in combat operations in both Afghanistan and Iraq. I have witnessed first hand the horror and cruelty of violence and warfare. The Newtown school massacre and the news reports that were broadcast day in and day out really made me question our current society and way of life. It is an absolute tragedy, and as a society we do need to address this issue.

Unfortunately, many representatives that have spoken out for more gun legislation and increased school security have gone outside their fields of expertise.

Regarding the proposed legislation, one must first look to the Connecticut State Constitution and read Article I, Section 15: "Every citizen has a right to bear arms in defense of himself and the state".

This sentence guarantees a Connecticut citizen's right to defend oneself using firearms. Nowhere in the State Constitution does it make mention of hunting rights or shooting sports.

Furthermore, the Second Amendment of the United States Constitution (The Supreme law of the land) has been applied to the states through the Fourteenth Amendment with the United States Supreme Court's decision on McDonald v. Chicago. The Second Amendment states:

"A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed."

The real question needs to be asked; will laws such as; high capacity (ten rounds or more) magazine bans, 50% ammo taxes, single shot firearms only, and making privately funded pistol permit holders information available through the Freedom of Information act actually help curtail gun violence??

One only has to look to a city such as Chicago: It's more probable that a young black man will be shot and killed in a Chicago neighborhood than in Afghanistan. Note; Chicago has attempted measures of gun control similar to what Connecticut legislators are now proposing, and failed to reduce gun violence.

Furthermore, would these laws even be legal?

Rep. Robert Sanchez of New Britain recently said in a town meeting:

"Fix the doors, have cameras outside, maybe guards — but not armed guards." I sincerely doubt that Representative Sanchez has ever been in a gunfight, and does not understand that the only thing that stops a bad guy with a gun, is a good guy with a gun. Putting an unarmed guard in a school as protection against an active shooter creates a false sense of security with the potential of another helpless victim.

I have assisted in the instruction of the NRA Basic Pistol Safety course, a pre-requisite in Connecticut for a citizen wishing to obtain a Permit to Carry a Handgun, to hundreds of students within the past year - some of these students have been school teachers. I'm sure that not all of these school teachers would be willing to carry weapons during school hours, but some of these trained individuals don't even have the option because our current "Gun Free Zones" denies them this right. Once again, we are given a false sense of security that has not reduced gun violence in schools.

In conclusion, our state government is attempting to pass legislation that does not solve the issue of gun violence, but rather criminalizes the average citizen. It prompts confiscation of private property and puts government on a higher pedestal, and is an insult to the tax-paying and law-abiding citizens of Connecticut.

Sincerely
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CCSU Student

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