

I am writing to follow up on my earlier email. The matters before you have received extensive testimony, but of a general nature. No bill has been proposed by your Task Force. One you have considered the testimony and proposed a bill with details, the public deserves a chance to come in and testify as to how that bill will affect them. The public deserves the opportunity to come in and let you, their elected officials, know what they think of the laws you make, and the effect upon them. This is not a case for emergency certification. There is no emergency as defined by past practice. There is no natural disaster, economic emergency, or other immediate threat. The only emergency that exists is the idea that we have to act quickly, as other states may do. That does not qualify as an emergency sufficient to eliminate public comment on the proposals. Our neighbor to the west, New York, did that. And all they created was a mess. Police were not exempted, law enforcement is indicating they are unable to enforce the law, no planning was made for the unbelievably high cost of implementation and enforcement.

There is no consensus on what should be done. Various sides have thrown various language together. Such as the last minute plea that law enforcement, and retired law enforcement be exempted from this. Why would we? Based on the recent examples of current and past law enforcement officials committing atrocities (the LAPD officer, the Miami officer, etc.), it is clear that law enforcement is not exempt from committing crimes with firearms. And the idea that the current officers need 15 round magazines because they are on the front lines of crime, and citizens are not, makes it clear that retired officers do not need them either. Once retired, they are no different than a citizen.

These matters, far from being a situation appropriate for e-cert, are matters that should be slowed down, examined from all sides, and then, in a rational and thoughtful way, propose legislation that will increase the safety of all citizens of Connecticut. If the emergency is that the more time that goes by, the less likely it is that this legislation will pass, that means we are working with emotion. Not our intellect, as is required by our elected officials.

As for the idea that a hearing was already held, I would beg to differ. As you recall, 1000's of people showed up to testify before the gun violence committee. Only to hear Mr. Williams state that the only hearing that mattered was the one in Newtown. I am sure the people who came before you in Hartford were unaware of that.

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