

Dearest Senators and Representatives,

The tragedy in Newtown, among others similar events, mandates thoughtful intelligent, consideration. One can not combat a *definite* outcome, with emotional reactions that are off base and ineffective. The following is what I, after much consideration, feel is a logical functional solution in the semiautomatic question. I have maintained focus on the firearms aspect of the problem, which is only one component of the overall issue. Other core aspects of the problem such as violent movies, video games, prescription medication, mental health issues, proper upbringing of children etc are not addressed here, nor do I believe I am qualified to offer a solution to them.

I am a Wall Street professional who has taken time off from work for the last month and a half at considerable financial opportunity loss, to attempt to get an audience, and/or a sponsor for my "idea" (bill if you may) As, you may know or have experienced, most legislators are afraid to extend themselves and potentially jeopardize their political careers on this sensitive topic. Thus I received silence, deflection and universal referral to you, the committee.

As sickened as all of us were at the events of Newtown, I knew after decades of following the firearms "debate" that only one voice would be heard, and one outcome would be proposed the systematic banning of all firearms. I will not waste the committee's time on my belief as to why only one narrow *solution* has been proposed in almost all the 35 Bills presented by the Senate and House. I will simply offer in the enclosed proposal, my thought out, functional proposal that I believe may mitigate, if not solve the issue of evil and unstable persons with semiautomatic guns, while respecting the Constitutional law in respect to civilian firearms ownership.

The world has, and our country recently has been in a moral state of flux. Various phenomenon have desensitized our population with some reprehensible individuals acting out in violent manners. There is no guarantee whatsoever that this type of event will never happen again. Let us NOT delude ourselves in thinking that conventional action will have any results. The wrong, illogical approach will result in a new level of problems, and costs associated with them, which may dwarf the problem we are trying to rectify. Every action has a reaction. The police can not ever be at the scene of most crimes, let alone deal with this type of horror...except to report of after the fact. With these responsible, yet not overly intrusive fail safes in place, in conjunction with the added cognizant vigilance of our armed and trained **citizenry**, the likelihood of unbridled massacres that we have seen more and more prevalent since the 1980s can be curtailed. I believe the attached is a functional solution, and in conjunction with solving the real issue of what is really ailing our society...we can progress.

I thank you sincerely for your time and consideration on what I consider to be the most important topic in our times. If the committee requires, I can be reached any time, for any purpose.

Sincerely,  
Thomas Philippides  
Wilton, Connecticut  
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## PROPOSED BILL

*We have a pistol permit system in place that is one of the fairest in the nation. It allows in-depth scrutiny of all applicants by the state police, and upon determination of their suitability is granted a license to purchase, possess and carry pistols. The minimum age for pistol permits is 21, and unlike conventional rifles and shotguns whose possession is permitted by anyone 18 years or older, "assault rifles" should be placed in a newly created class of firearm that has a hybrid mix of characteristics of the former two classes. This newly created class of firearm will only be permitted by those 21 or higher, and be in possession of a Connecticut pistol permit. The logistic infrastructure for this regulation is already in place, and necessitates only minor form(s) modification. This simple augmentation of the existing pistol permit structure is cost effective, and will not necessitate any budgetary expansion for the enforcement agency in charge. The following is my proposal to effectively prevent unauthorized, unqualified persons from having access, or obtaining semiautomatic weapons.*

- 1) So called assault rifles are to be possessed in Connecticut only by CT pistol permit holders. All other existing "assault" rifles are to be removed from the state, sold, or turned into the state police in return for immediate fair market compensation. Purchase and possession of these weapons may only be made by resident and non resident CT pistol permit holders. A grace period shall exist, until those in possession of an "assault rifle" can apply for and obtain a pistol permit, if one is not already possessed. No sales can be made at the retail level of these firearms to out of state, non CT pistol permit holders, except by manufacturers selling to out of state businesses, and Federal Firearms License (FFL) to FFL transfer.*
- 2) If a pistol permit holder chooses to buy or own an "assault rifle", as defined in Connecticut statutes, he or she must purchase a safe of meaningful construction and provide receipt as proof of purchase to the CT state police in Middletown. A copy will be maintained in the pistol permit holders file. When a CT pistol permit licensee is not in direct control of the weapon, it must be locked in the safe in which the permit holder has the only access. If in transit, weapon must be in licensee's possession, or if in an automobile, be constantly within licensee's view in order to prevent theft.*
- 3) Magazines for rifles in excess of 30 rounds, and pistols in excess of 20, are banned except by those in possession of a Federal class 3 license which permits the possession of fully automatic weapons. All other magazines, in excess of 30 rounds are to be sold out of state, removed from the state, or turned into the police for immediate market compensation. Purchase and possession of any magazines, despite round capacity for "assault rifles", may only be made by resident and non resident CT pistol permit holders. Display of valid license must be made when purchase is made at a retail level.*
- 4) Children below the age of 21 may shoot an "assault rifle" only in direct supervision of a CT permit holder, police official or bonified training instructor. Persons, age 18 who are eligible to purchase and possess a long gun, are not eligible to but the newly formed class of firearm until age of 21 is attained, and a Connecticut pistol license is secured.*

- 5) *The independent board of firearms examiners is made a permanent, irrevocable entity to provide balance to the potential for bureaucratic misconduct in the issuance and maintenance of the Connecticut pistol license. It is the existence of this uniquely Connecticut entity, which highlights the fairness of our laws over other states.*
- 6) *Gun free zones such as school grounds and other locations that have proven to be ineffective in deterring any such disasters as Newtown's be immediately stopped and allow permit holders to carry there to act and be a real deterrent to further, inevitable tragedies that we have experienced. The concept that a formalized, armed guard at each and every school is cost prohibitive, and completely ineffective. A potential criminal intending to cause mayhem can simply neutralize an unsuspecting, no doubt complacent guard, and commit their act with no resistance. Any anonymous, capable licensee, whose numbers in an existing property cannot be predicted, is the only logical, effective deterrent.*
- 7) *The use of a firearm by a licensee, police, or peace officer to disrupt or prevent any person in the act of causing any criminal mayhem, is to be free of civil and criminal liability and prosecution to enhance incentive, and remove barriers for public willingness to assist in such a matter. IE: an extension, if I may, to "good Samaritan laws". It is imperative in the event of such a scenario, that a licensee be able to act unfettered, and selflessly to be effective against an individual who has premeditated and planned such an event.*