

Thank you Committee members for hearing my testimony...I'm Walter Chambers from Bristol,Ct..I vote in every election and love the United States of America I grew up in...I learned gun safety from an early age from Denis Perri fireman and fire marshal of Bristol,Ct..I just want to express my thoughts on HB 1234 An Act Concerning Firearms..I am opposed to any changes in the current gun laws..The laws we have on the books if enforced are more than enough to police the law abiding citizen that wants to own firearms..The problem is criminals and the mentally ill that will not follow any laws you pass..We seem to be soft on criminals and tough on the law abiding citizens..I was in shock the day Newtown happened..I spent the day thinking of my kids and grand children,crying trying to comprehend how anyone could commit such an act..I'm still sick to my stomach every time I think about it..But Adam Lanza was a murdering thug before he ever entered that school...He stole the weapons he possessed from his mother he murdered..He did not get them legally..Though the laws being proposed are to ban guns from legal citizens..To be more specific assault rifle ban...Well assault rifles were not used in these crimes,an assault rifle is a fully automatic rifle..The rifles everyone keeps referring to is nothing more than a semi-automatic hunting rifle that has been around for almost a century, with cosmetic features..The general public would never know that because the media and lawmakers always show a machine gun when referring to these so called assault rifles..Less than 400 people a year are actually killed by all rifles combined...That number is still 400 to many, But over all more people are beaten to death every year..

And if these guns are banned,except for keeping them out of the hands of honest hard working tax payers,how will you keep them from criminals? The same way drugs are kept out of our cities? Prohibition laws never work they just help drive an underground economy..And laws like this will just make more victims not less...

Now about how many rounds are too many? I don't ever want to find out or worse have my wife find out...But police officer Peter Soulis' found out that 22 rounds were not enough after hitting Tim Palmer twenty-two times,seventeen hit center mass..That was after Soulis' himself was shot by Palmer...And more recently a Georgia mother shot a home intruder six times and he still managed to drive away..If there had been multiple intruders who knows how that might have ended..And then we have Dr.Petit here in Ct. I often wonder if someone in that house had had firearms training things might not have been so bad..It is bad people doing things to people that are doing the right thing..Yet it seems we want to disarm more good people..

What will taxing ammo do? I'll tell you,it will make us that have a passion for shooting shoot less..It will affect local gun stores and ranges with less business and accomplish nothing to the criminal..

School safety I don't have an answer..But it isn't anything new or always a rifle..The worse school massacre was in 1927 in Bath Township,Michigan by Andrew Kehoe who set off three explosions killing 38 children and 6 others...The Virginia Tech murder used two handguns with standard round magazines to kill 32..Not to mention the 19 children in a daycare and 149 others killed by Timothy McVeigh in his OK. bombing attack...But making schools gun free zones are like promoting killing fields...You don't see people attacking police stations or armories..Like I said I don't have the answer..But law abiding citizens are not the ones committing these crimes..Maybe allowing trained staff to carry or armed resource officer might help..I'm not sure..But banning the local sportsman's

favorite rifle will do nothing...

It seems to me most of the people that have committed these acts, had people in their life's that knew something wasn't right..We need to concentrate on these people in our society that need help and make sure they get it..Not just tossed in some program and forgotten about...I blame us all for not being vigilant enough to open our mouths when we see something that isn't right..To feel uncomfortably and do the right thing...

Thanks for hearing me out and again we have enough laws all ready..Enforce them to their fullest extent and no time off for good behavior..And find common ground to get the mentally ill the treatments the need and deserve..It is a people problem not a gun problem..

In ending I quote Benjamen Franklin "Those who would give up Essential Liberty to purchase a little Temporary Safety, deserve neither Liberty nor Safety." .

you all,

Chambers

May God Bless

Walter