

Dear Members of the Gun Violence Committee, I am a veteran of Operation Iraqi Freedom, a father of two children, and a law abiding pistol permit holder. I am against the new bills being proposed. I feel that the laws that Connecticut has in place are more than sufficient. What happened at Sandy Hook was a tragedy. The bills that are being proposed are only punishing those of us who have gone through all the proper steps to obtain legal ownership of weapons. Criminals and the mentally ill do not follow laws and are able to obtain firearms if they so choose. Our focus should not be on guns but on what is truly the issue at hand. We have a flawed mental health system which needs to be fixed. We need to take the energy and drive that is behind all these gun bills and focus them on the mental health issues and flaws in our system which is what brings us here today. Before Sandy Hook there was nobody pushing to ban guns or reconstruct laws, I feel this is because we already know that Connecticut has a very good and strict system in place. The only arguable flaw is in private transfer of long guns. I have sold long guns myself in private transfer, but only to a person with a pistol permit. Again I urge you to not focus on gun laws in a state with some of the strictest gun laws, but look at how we can better protect our children while they are in school by providing school resource officers just as some high schools already have, and finding a way to make our mental health system more efficient and a way to ensure that the mentally ill are unable to obtain firearms and use them against innocent people. In closing I would like to remind you that we MUST respect the 2nd amendment of the Constitution. If you have any further questions feel free to contact me.

Thank You,
William Solito Jr.
Windsor Locks CT