

Dear Committee Members:

I'm afraid! I'm 63 years old and recently disabled-retired in East Hartford. I have lived and worked in Connecticut for 35 years, raised a family with my loving wife, paid taxes, was proud to keep my house up, for which I often receive compliments. A burglar might say "looks like a good house to break into." "Maybe there's some money in there?"

I am afraid you will put unnecessary limits on my gun and make it impossible for me to effectively defend my wife and home. Although we have an alarm system, like most people, we only set it when we leave or go to bed. What happens if our home is invaded when the alarm is off, like Dr. Petit's home in Cheshire, whose wife and 2 daughters were raped and murdered; or the mother in Loganville, Georgia who recently saved her twin boys by shooting all 6 of her clips into an ex-convict home invader. She kept him down, according to reports, by threatening to shoot him again even though her gun was empty.

I AM AFRAID OF BEING ROBBED OR WORSE IN E. HARTFORD, A HIGHER CRIME TOWN! While overall CT crime rates have decreased (over various time frames), East Hartford's rates have increased. EX: [<http://www.cityrating.com/crime-statistics/connecticut/#.UQabib9ZWAI>], [http://easthartfordct.gov/Public_Documents/EastHartfordCT_Police/Management/stats].

I have a CT permit to carry. I own a Smith & Wesson M&P 9mm pistol with a 17 round magazine. I keep it locked and obey all safety rules. Why do I need 17 rounds? Simple - the first one to run out of bullets is the first to die! I also have early Parkinsons disease and I'm afraid I won't have the time or finger dexterity to reload in a dangerous situation. I am afraid that the law you are considering to limit rounds to 7 would leave me outgunned by home invaders who always get higher-clip guns illegally, no matter what laws are passed.

Our history proves that gun laws do not stop violent criminals. They do, however, hinder people from defending themselves, as happened in the Texas "Luby's Massacre" in 1991. A crazed gunman shot 50 people and killed 23, including the parents of Dr. Suzanna Gratia Hupp. Dr. Hupp had a handgun in her car but didn't carry it into the cafeteria due to TX law at that time, which forbade carrying concealed firearms. She testified that she regretted obeying the law and felt she could have at least slowed the massacre down, if not stop it, until police arrived. Reacting to the massacre and Dr. Hupp's pro-gun activism, Texas and many other states passed laws allowing citizens to carry concealed weapons with a permit.

I'm afraid that by adding a large tax to purchasing bullets, you limit my ability to practice at legal firing ranges. It already is not cheap for a legal owner to purchase, practice and supply a handgun. My wife and I live on a fixed income. Who will pay to replace my 17-round cartridges if they become illegal? Where

will I get the money to buy gun liability insurance which you are considering? Or is the extra sin-tax perhaps a potential for raising more state revenue, more so than saving lives, G-d forbid, in some of your minds? Is the gun liability insurance designed to help out our Insurance industry, which would profit handsomely from it, more than helping victims?

I'm afraid that in a national emergency, such as the explosion of a terrorist dirty bomb, or new race riots, limiting my rounds and the number of bullets I can afford will kill my family. Am I paranoid? I lived through the race riots of the '70s. You must have heard the report that Times Square police, this past New Year's eve, were being prepared for the possibility of a dirty bomb? We live in such divisive political times, where Washington seems to blame every political, economic, gender, nationality or racial group for our problems; where the Invade-Wall-St. groups were actually encouraged by some politicians; that riots - racial or otherwise - are not inconceivable. Look at the current European riots.

I'm afraid that one of the psychological "controls" you may consider for guns is to make doctors and psychologists mandated reporters of their patients who own guns. I am a diabetic of 53 years. I suffer from intestinal neuropathy that is helped by taking anti-depressants. I cannot obtain them without seeing a psychiatrist. I'm afraid this will put me on some government list of people who cannot purchase firearms and thus prevent me from defending myself if need be.

I mourn the deaths of the precious Newtown souls terribly. I was horrified when I heard of it. I grieve for the parents and relatives who can never make sense of this tragedy. But in my humble opinion, no more "gun control" laws enacted by Connecticut or the Federal government will have any effect for this reason: The problem is in our culture, in our society. The problem is not the guns, or school security or mental health per se. Yes, these areas have to be addressed, but only as parts of a greater whole. The larger problem lies in the dissolution and division of our society. This is my biggest fear. If I am afraid of violent movies, violent video games, uncivil speech and actions, lack of jobs, lack of morality and pride in our country and our past and our future, how much more afraid and angry will this be to a mentally unbalanced person? How can we not expect violence when divisiveness, arrogance and incivility are so inured and cultured in our politics and media? We are no longer a melting pot of Americans. We insist on "the rights" of every group to gain influence and control. We are politically correct to the point of revising our history, language, humor, sports and religion. We listen to rap music that is often the virtual essence of violence. Violence is here to stay if we can no longer sing America The Beautiful without G-d Shed His Grace on Thee.

