

Hello,

I am writing you as a concerned citizen of Connecticut and the United States. After reading about the overabundance of bills being filed by so many Representatives of this state I felt compelled to contact you.

We are all horrified by the senseless act of a sick individual who took the lives of 26 innocent victims in Newtown and yes even his own mother. However I believe there has been a rush to "do something" in the wake of this tragic event. Governor Malloy has gone on record stating Connecticut is in the Top 5 states with the strictest gun laws in the country.

The real problem is enforcing the laws we have, closing loopholes on all gun purchases, and ensuring people being treated for mental illnesses cannot acquire firearms. I fully support measures to keep guns out of the hands of non-law abiding citizens and making crimes involving guns as strict as possible.

I do think that Universal Background Checks is a reasonable and responsible response. I do think tightening background checks on mental health is a reasonable and responsible response. I do think looking into supplying schools with a less lethal defensive alternative along with proper training and safety drills is a reasonable and responsible response.

However forcing law-abiding citizen to give up their property and in doing so limit their ability to adequately protect themselves and their family is wrong and not a responsible response. Making and treating me like a criminal is wrong and not a responsible response. Publishing permit holders name is not a responsible response. Banning modern sporting rifles and limiting magazine capacity is wrong and not a responsible response. Restricting the availability of ammunition and/or making it cost prohibitive by levying of excessive taxes is not a responsible response.

As a responsible citizen and gun owner, I take the legal right to protect my family very seriously. Taking the firearms out of the hands of law-abiding citizens will only leave them in the hands of criminals who will not recognize or follow any law you implement and put our safety in jeopardy.

I commend you for any and all measures you support that address better mental healthcare and the safety for the people of our state. I hope that you'll continue to stand behind the law-abiding citizens that support you and vote against any legislation that further infringes on our 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment right.

This great country was built upon the basics that our Forefathers laid down in the Constitution which are written to protect the rights of every citizen. I can only hope and pray these rights will not be infringed upon now or in the future for our children's sake.

Sincerely,

Mark Daigle