

# New Haven Register

<http://www.nhregister.com/opinion/20160118/forum-guns-common-sense-and-nonsense>

## Forum: Guns, common sense and nonsense



*Men stand with pistols strapped at their sides at a gun rights rally on the steps of the Capitol Friday in Olympia, Wash. Lawmakers and others spoke at the rally, which drew about 100 people, emphasizing legislative priorities and speaking against gun-related policies of President Barack Obama.* THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

*By Edward Marcus*

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The recent discussion about enhancing gun dealer licensing laws and expanded gun ownership background checks revolves around President Obama's willingness to act with or without Congressional support.

It has always seemed ridiculous to me that people from Connecticut who could not obtain a gun license here — or pass a background check anywhere — can go unimpeded to a gun show in some other state and buy a gun. When challenged, gun dealers and their supporters respond that somehow licensing and background checks are an attack on the Second Amendment, namely, the right to bear arms.

Common sense would say that this should not be a political issue since it is so obvious that in order to sell a gun on a bulk basis there must be applicable licensing laws and a gun buyer must also have a proper license issued after a proper background check. How this became a political issue basically relates to the National Rifle Association and its

ability to raise money and help finance Republican presidential candidates as well as others who view being against gun control as a rite of passage.

The reality is that President Obama is simply trying to make it more difficult for people that should not own a firearm to obtain one.

Will the latest executive action, if funded by Congress and if enforced, be a huge game changer? Probably not. But it is sheer nonsense to hear Republican candidates calling President Obama a petulant child (Chris Christie's remark), accused of tampering with and changing the Second Amendment (per Donald Trump), and worst of all hearing comments by Jeb Bush, an individual I always thought was the most moderate of the Republican candidates. He stated that Obama was taking rights away from law-abiding citizens.

The problem is that to win the Republican nomination, candidates seemingly have to talk nonsense when it comes to gun control (and other issues).

One can argue about the nuance and nuisance of laws that are in effect as well as those that should be enacted. But no one can argue with the facts that make it clear the government must intervene and require that any type of gun be subject to licensing. Anyone that has possession of a gun must be subject to a rigid background check. This doesn't affect the Second Amendment one bit. It simply is common sense vs. nonsense.

If nothing else, President Obama and Gov. Malloy are paying attention to a problem that requires congressional action, congressional funding, and an attitude adjustment on the part of the Republicans in control of Congress as well as the Republican candidates for president.

One can differ about political issues but the regulation of guns is one where I just do not understand how, for example, Sen. Ted Cruz can make simplistic comments and probably have his poll numbers go up. He said, "We don't beat the bad guys by taking away our guns; we beat the bad guys by using our guns." Anything to try to win a vote — other than doing the right thing.

I commend President Obama for his continually calling attention to the problem that exists, and Gov. Malloy for attempting to do the right thing in Connecticut on this issue. How can any reasonable person argue that if you're on a no-fly list you shouldn't be on a no-gun license list? Common sense vs. nonsense. You would think that common sense would win every time.

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