



June 21, 2024

Statement from Rachel Khanna, State Representative (D-149), on Recent Supreme Court Decisions on Guns

“In the past two weeks, the Supreme Court has issued two rulings that directly impact our safety and that of our communities. These cases are perfect examples of why it’s critical to vote for gun safety advocates in Connecticut. Elections matter.

The June 14th Supreme Court ruling which overturned the national ban on bump stocks is an alarming decision that makes our country less safe. Bump stocks convert a semiautomatic weapon into a machine gun capable of firing hundreds of bullets per minute. There is a reason Congress outlawed civilian ownership of machine guns in 1934, a law that remains in place today.

A bump stock device resulted in the deadliest mass shooting in US history when a Las Vegas gunman employed one to kill 58 people and injure more than 500 others in 2017. With this decision, the Supreme Court just put this device legally back in civilian hands. Fortunately in Connecticut, we passed a bump stock ban in 2018, and CT Attorney General William Tong stated last week’s decision has ‘zero impact’ on our state law.

Today’s 8-1 Court decision upholding the government's right to keep guns out of the hands of dangerous individuals—specifically domestic abusers—is good news. But, it’s frightening that the Supreme Court was even weighing whether a drug dealer who was under a restraining order for assaulting his girlfriend and threatening to shoot her, should have legal access to guns.

Gun violence is a major public health crisis in our country. Every day 120 Americans are killed with guns. Women are five times more likely to be murdered if there is access to a gun in a domestic violence situation. The data show that strong gun safety laws save lives and overturning the bump stock ban puts our country at risk.

Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor said in her dissent that the bump stock ruling ‘will have deadly consequences,’ and I fear she will be correct. We must continue to fight for common sense gun safety laws in Connecticut and around our country.”

Rachel Khanna is running for re-election for her second term as State Representative in Connecticut’s 149th district.