

Date: March 14, 2013

To: Public Safety and Security Committee Public Hearing

RE: Proposed Gun Task Force List and recommendations

Dear honorable committee members;

I am writing to you today to express my strong opposition to all of the following bills; SB505, SB506, SB710, SB897, SB1071, SB1076, HB6162, HB625, HB6595 and HB6598. If the main objective over the last several months following the Sandy Hook incident was truly to find meaningful and common sense legislation to stop the criminal thugs and mentally unstable, then these proposals completely miss the mark. After carefully reading through each and every bill, it seems to me that the real objective here is nothing more than gun control or even worse an attempt at an indirect gun confiscation scheme. All of this effectively achieved through new taxes, new licensing requirements, new yearly burdensome registration paperwork on each firearm and new or increased license and manufacturing fees which we all know will only impact the hardworking and law abiding citizens of this state. These proposals will do nothing to address the criminal and mentally ill issues and will ultimately add to the criminal element by turning scores of lawful and productive tax paying citizens into criminals as many of us simply WILL NOT COMPLY. Reasons for none compliance will be many, some because of the hefty financial burden and extra yearly paper work that is being forced on them, some simply not fully understanding the new rules and regulation and others will simply refuse as an act of civil disobedience to what many believe will ultimately be an unconstitutional law. I ask you do we really want to burden our courts with these types of future prosecutions. I also find it particular troublesome that many in this legislature are using this tragedy as an opportunity to create a new revenue stream for the state all on the backs of gun owners and the many firearms manufactures. Another question I would ask you to consider, where is all the additional funding going to come from to support and administer the mountain of paper work and law enforcement nightmare that these bills will ultimately create if passed? I am sure that many of you are aware of the financial circumstances that this state is now facing and we simply can't afford to pay for this none sense under the false pretense of extra security. In addition I would also like to point out that even though these laws exempt the manufacturing sector a good number of them will ultimately choose to leave the state for a more industry friendly environment. This will cause the loss of many, many good paying jobs as well as further shrink the existing corporate tax base.

As a long time Connecticut resident, voter and law abiding citizen I am feed up with the arrogance, irresponsibility and lack of real leadership with our elected officials in Hartford. Why is it that the majority of the attention is being focused on taking rights and guns away from the law abiding citizens who have done nothing to deserve this scrutiny? The firearms and magazines in question allow us to protect ourselves from the same threats that law enforcement agencies face so why are we being singled out? I

also want to remind this committee that law enforcement officials are also citizens of this state and should not be granted "special class" rights over any other citizen. If you truly believe the hype that the AR15 sporting rifles and 30 round magazines are truly weapons of war and have no place in the civilian market than I have to ask why do the police need them? Who are they going to war against?

When it comes to fighting crime and going after the bad guys, the hypocrisy on display by this Governor and the majority party in this state is simply laughable. Many of you supported the repeal of our capital punishment law, supported the early release program which let dangerous criminals out on the street so they can continue preying on us while in the same manner you trample our 2nd amendment rights by further disarming us, criticize and mock us for our strong opposition to the "NOT SO COMMON SENSE" restriction you are proposing all of this under the pretense of protecting our kids. This is absolutely inexcusable at every level and I can assure you that many of you will pay the price at the ballot box for your party line support on these important public safety issues.

In closing as this committee moves forward with its work I ask you all to take a step back and reflect on the oath you took to defend the constitution of this state and our country before casting your votes. We all grieve with the Sandy Hook families as they try to cope with the senseless and tragic loss of their loved ones. I also believe we need to be mindful of the many recent and past military families who also had to cope with the loss of their sons and daughters because of the ultimate sacrifice they made defending this great country and our constitution. If we allow the act of a single deranged individual to jeopardize our god given freedoms that we all enjoy as law abiding citizens of this state and country than those who fought and died defending those freedoms will have done so in vein. Every life lost due to an act of violence is a tragedy no matter what the circumstances are but we need to realize that we can't legislate evil out of society no matter how hard we try. I remind you that we are a constitutional republic and the rule of law is based on that fact not the majority rules principle. As our elected leaders this should be the main consideration when debating and considering laws like those which are now before you. I realize there is an enormous amount of pressure being placed on each of you to act but acting foolishly for the sake of saying you did something is not exhibiting the leadership we so badly need in this state. We are paying very close to what position each of you will ultimately take on this issue and we will hold you all accountable for your actions. I also respectfully warn you not to underestimate our determination to defeat those who continue to put emotion over substance, protect the criminals over the law abiding and put the agenda of the governor and democratic leadership over the needs and liberties of the good citizens. We are awake and mobilized and will work hard to continue to fight for our rights. Thank you for your time.

Chip Cifone

Burlington, CT.

A voting citizen of the State of Connecticut