

Dear Senators and Representatives,

Who is responsible for the 26 deaths at Sandy Hook Elementary School? Not the law abiding gun owners of the State of Connecticut. This was a horrific event that made grown men tear up. However, you should not let a lone nut case determine public policy. It is wrong headed and totally unfair but unfortunately predictable for the Connecticut Legislature to place the blame on Connecticut gun owners.

This is a mental health issue, not a gun issue. Sandy Hook, Aurora Colorado, Tucson Arizona, Virginia Tech, all perpetrated by sick adolescents that could have easily been identified and hospitalized if the Mental Health System wasn't so broken down. How many Hospitals have been closed here in Connecticut? One right in Newtown. Just last March, some of the same Legislators who now want to trample the rights of gun owners defeated Senate Bill 452 which could very well have had Lanza undergoing treatment as an inpatient rather than on a rampage in an elementary school. I guess it is human nature to place blame elsewhere and not think about that. Then there are those who introduce bills every year hoping to capitalize on the atrocity while emotions are at a feverish pitch. The new language inserted at the end of SB1076 is the second to last step in these ideologues wish list. Their final step is banning public ownership of all firearms.

Then there is William Spangler who killed 2 brave firefighters and his sister in Webster, New York on Christmas Eve. He spent 17 years in prison for killing his grandmother with a hammer. A weapon that according to the FBI kills more Americans than all rifles combined. It seems he was released early, a practice that is popular here in Connecticut also. It appears that two Connecticut early release felons committed murder in Meriden and East Hartford last year. Repeat violent mentally ill offenders who were granted early release to fulfill their homicidal destiny. Two more cases of mental illness, and these guys had actually been in prison, and released. They did not get their guns legally and guns in the hands of honest citizens who have passed all the present requirements are not the problem. What it does show, honest Connecticut citizens need to be able to defend themselves. A GOD given right guaranteed by both the United States and Connecticut Constitutions.

No matter how many guns you ban, unfortunately, you will not stop the carnage. There is always another weapon the mad man can utilize, some of which are even deadlier than the dreaded so called assault weapon and its standard magazine. You ram through this legislation and the next time a horrific event happens, what then, ban something else. Take for example, George Russell Weller who killed ten and wounded sixty three when he drove his car through a Santa Monica farmers market. A car is a far deadlier weapon than a gun.

Universal background checks could be a good idea. Tuff measures must be taken to ensure the powers to be do not use the data as back door gun registration. It also must be guaranteed that medical records are not used to disenfranchise citizens for minor stress or pain related medication. It appears that the V.A. Is already abusing their access to medical records. Im all for safe storage and practice it. This has to be emphasized to people with children and mentally ill in the household. Universal yearly gun registration is a nonstarter. What part of "shall not be infringed" do you not understand? I would assume those who support this measure have no problem with

requiring a background check for disqualifying convictions, and a permit, with recent photo and thumbprint prior to voting in any election. After all, it is not an infringement!!! You absolutely must fix the broken mental health system in Connecticut. Non violent individuals should probably have early release available to them but no one with a history of violence. I have heard of civil commitment for pedafile sex ofenders after they complete their sentance. If that can be done , why not have similar options for violent inmates that suffer mental illness? Fixing the mental health system would go further than anything else you could do to make Connecticut safer in this issue. Gun and magazine bans along with registration will do nothing but deny honest citizens their rights.

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