

Good Day,

My name is Michael Semeraro from Prospect, Connecticut.

I am a law-abiding citizen, a hunter, a certified firearms instructor, a certified range safety officer, a competitive shooter, and a responsible gun owner. I was taught safe gun handling skills at a young age and to this day, I continue to take pride in teaching, promoting, & applying all aspects of firearms safety.

I am extremely saddened by the tragic events of Newtown, Connecticut. I believe that efforts to impose more restrictions on myself and other lawful and responsible firearms owners like myself will not be beneficial. I am strongly opposed to any new gun control legislation that has come about due to the tragedy that occurred at the Sandy Hook Elementary School last December. I completely understand the emotions caused by this very horrible & very painful act of violence. While I grieve for everyone affected, and wish that such an occurrence never happen again, I also realize that attacking the Constitutional rights of law abiding citizens is not the proper corrective measure to take.

Everything that happened that tragic day was already covered by existing Connecticut & Federal law. Those laws were blatantly ignored by an evil person. It is extremely important that you understand that this crime was committed in a state where we still have an Assault Weapons Ban in place. Connecticut currently has some of the strictest firearms laws in the nation. (Ct. is listed as fourth). There are no voids in this area. I encourage all of you to wait until ALL of the facts have been released from the investigation of the Connecticut State Police regarding what actually took place at Newtown before considering either proposing or passing any new firearms laws.

Please, DO NOT just pass any more gun laws; instead, let's work together to solve these problems and try focusing your attention on enforce existing gun laws. I also encourage all of you to better understand firearms & how they function before considering making new laws about certain makes, models, or characteristics of firearms that some of you are not even familiar with. Contrary to popular belief, the letters "AR" in AR-15 actually stand for "Armalite Rifle", not assault rifle. The civilian legal version of the AR-15 is called a 'modern sporting rifle' not an assault rifle. The modern sporting rifle is ONLY capable of semi-automatic fire, NOT fully automatic fire. Semi-automatic fire means one round is fired with one pull of the trigger.

With regards to limiting the number of rounds a standard capacity magazine can hold, I see absolutely no benefit. Magazines can be changed within one to two seconds. Law abiding citizens should be allowed to have the option of having access to the same magazine capacities that law enforcement have. Criminals will never follow such restrictions.

I'm also not sure I understand how limiting the sales of one firearm per month to law abiding citizens will reduce the sales of illegal firearms on the streets. With all due respect, this makes absolutely no sense. Furthermore, all firearms are banned in Chicago and yet it has the highest homicide rate with firearms in the country. Proof that there is absolutely no legislation that can be passed that will stop evil people from doing evil acts.

In March of 1981, President Ronald Reagan was shot at close range by a deranged lunatic and yet he never sought to ban firearms or their accessories from society. It was the mentally unstable person who was ultimately responsible for this act. There were laws in place at that time against anyone using a firearm for criminal intent, & yet it did not stop the act from happening. Simply stated, criminals do not follow laws. I am not a criminal. More restrictive firearms legislation will only punish law abiding citizens.

Respectfully,

Michael Semeraro
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