

3/14/2013

Members of the Committee,

I rise in opposition to any additional gun control legislation, in particular, any legislation that burdens gun owners to prove their mental health. Can any of you prove to us your own sound mental health? Can you define the standard of sound mental health? What does it look like? On Dec 14<sup>th</sup>, a tragic killing spree occurred, not because a certain style rifle exists, or a particular sized magazine, but because a young man, either ill or evil, or both, committed senseless murder that no one in this room can either explain, or prevent, regardless of political ego. If any one of you seated in front of me has the magical legislation that would have inspired Adam Lanza to embrace his mom that morning rather than kill her, please, rise before us (pause). If any one of you seated in front of me feels that peaceful, lawful gun owners like me are somehow partly to blame for the murders committed by Lanza, please, rise before us. Some of you seated before me feel you *must* act, that *if you* can save one life, you must do something, anything, Constitutional Rights be damned. Some of you feel public safety trumps our natural God given Rights, or that you feel the Constitution doesn't go far enough to keep people safe. Well, the Constitution wasn't designed to ensure public safety; it was designed to ensure Liberty. The gun debate is never a debate at all, rather a media driven, emotion fed circus. If legislators would simply adhere to Constitutional principal, this would be relatively simple. I'm confident those seated behind me are very familiar with the Bill of Rights, and I hope those seated in front of me are equally familiar. We're all aware of the existence of the Bill of Rights, but how many of you have actually thought about what it took to create such a magnificent piece?. It took character, personal sacrifice, humility, selflessness. Our Framers, purposely and deliberately limited their own powers so that others could enjoy greater freedom. How many of you can honestly say you share those virtues? Ask yourselves, do you pattern your approach to leadership to limit your power so that others can be more free, or do you surrender to the public opinion poll de jour, or hastily sign off on the next piece of superficial legislation with hopes and desires only of re election and selfish ambition? History is recording, to be certain. History does not edit, it holds no bias. History will record these times, it will record the names of the major political players, it will especially record the way our sensation driven media loudly introduced Adam Lanza to the world, made him famous, and immortalized his cowardly acts, The Media gave him what was probably his last dying wish, immortality. By acting against innocent gun owners, you will add to Adam Lanza's posthumous victory by passing legislation solely because of his actions, and that will become your legacy, stealing our freedoms, for Adam Lanza. Adam Lanza's immortal victory will be your legacy, and you will forever be linked to a murderous coward.

Thank you

Robert Steed

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