

Dear Honorable Task Force Members:

I regret that due an emergency business trip, I will be out of the country and will be unable to attend your hearing in person and ask that my letter be considered testimony.

As a father of two, ages 5 and 3, protecting my children is at the top of my mind. The acts of a psychotic in Newtown are deplorable. While a knee-jerk reaction would be to further restrict the right of legal gun owners, we need to hone in on the root cause of gun violence. It's not the guns that kill people, but the people behind the guns.

We need to tackle the root causes:

- violence in the media
- biased media outlets - CNN on the left and Fox on the right
- glorified violence portrayed in movies, adolescent video games, and other Hollywood scripting
- a mental health system ill prepared to deal with the emotional stresses of today's world- particularly those stresses created during such an economic downturn.

Connecticut has one of the toughest set of gun laws on the books. Not one of these laws stopped or can stop the acts of a mentally ill person. History has shown time in and time out that restricting guns just doesn't work; there are already 20,000+ gun laws on the books. Let's stop pursuing rules which would punish the legitimate gun owner.

Instead, let's reduce the probability that guns will fall into the wrong hands by tightening the background check process, strengthening penalties for those that commit crimes, and enforce existing laws. Guns not only serve as a mechanism for sport, but they play an integral role in defending the average citizen in today's violent society. Let's stop pursuing rules which would punish the legitimate gun owner.

I've seen bills recently surface in both the Senate and House which would limit the ability own a gun to only guns that fire one shot. Well, guess what- there aren't guns that would fire only one shot. This bill would in essence outlaw all guns. I've seen bills that would force homeowners to keep their guns locked up at home. Well, guess what- that takes away precious time that is needed to defend oneself in a home invasion. I've seen bills introduced which would impose a usurious tax on ammunition to make it unaffordable to buy. Well, guess what – do you think the criminals care; they will just steal it or use stolen funds to secure it. Let's stop pursuing rules which would punish the legitimate gun owner.

Let us not forget the Cheshire home invasions which occurred just a few years ago. In that invasion, the entire family was executed by cold-blooded home robbers. If the home owner had a gun, the family could at least have tried to stay alive. Do you think that there was any gun law which could have prohibited such a horrific act? Do you think that there is any gun law which could have preventing the horrific acts in Newtown? However, a criminal would think twice about attacking a person if the victim was armed and could defend him/herself? Studies have shown that States that have right to carry laws actually experience lower violent crimes that those that don't. Let's stop pursuing rules which would punish the legitimate gun owner.

Remember, if someone is deranged enough to kill, they certainly will do so regardless of the means. So, rather than focusing on restricting the rights of law abiding citizens which put them at a disadvantage of these mentally deranged villains, let's fix this right and tackle the root cause of violence.

Until then, the violence won't stop.

Regards,

Dominick Agron

Easton, CT

CLACKAMAS MALL SHOOTER FACED MAN WITH CONCEALED WEAPON

*By Mike Benner, KGW-TV (Portland, OR)*

WOMAN HIDING WITH KIDS SHOOTS INTRUDER

*WSB-TV (Atlanta, GA)*

MAN USES GUN TO PROTECT TWO-MONTH OLD SON FROM ARMED ROBBER

*By Mary Chastain, Breitbart.com*

CAR THIEF KILLED, ANOTHER WOUNDED AT STONE OAK HOME

*By Karen Grace, Jenny Suniga, Kens5.com*

EAST RIDGE HOME INTRUDER STOPPED BY ARMED RESIDENTS

*BY KIMBERLY BARBOUR, WRCB-TV (TN)*

HOMEOWNER HALTS BREAK-IN, CHASES BURGLAR FROM HER HOME

*BY AUSTIN L. MILLER, OCALA STAR BANNER (FL)*

BURGLARY SUSPECT CALLS 911 AFTER SPRINGTOWN HOMEOWNER HOLDS HIM AT GUNPOINT

*By Matt Peterson, Dallas Morning News*