

Richard C. Clavet
255 Towpath Lane
Cheshire, CT 06410-3357
richclvt@cox.net

January 24, 2013

School Safety Working Group
Legislative Office Building, Room 2C
Hartford, CT 06106

Honorable Members:

As an American and a citizen of the State of Connecticut, I urge this committee to review actions that will be effective in creating safe environments for our state's schools and learning institutions.

I strongly oppose any action that will limit or penalize the law-abiding gun owner in this state.

I've reviewed the dozens of House and Senate bill proposals recently submitted designed to further control guns, ammunition and gun registrations. Of note; gun control proposals far outnumber the proposed legislation to improve school security, mental health and/or gun violence. Of bill proposals submitted, I'd like to highlight the proposals that, I feel, make sense:

- HB-5319 requiring more intruder-resistant school buildings and improved security methods
- HB-5322 concerning community resource officers in elementary schools
- HB-5660 immunity from liability for harm caused to an individual who is committing violent acts against others while on school property
- SB-169 concerning the assessment and delivery of mental health services and interventions for children. (wouldn't hurt to include adults in this proposal)
- SB-499 concerning the duty of a psychiatrist to warn law enforcement authorities of a dangerous individual....

Bill proposals that speak to ammunition clip limitations, assault weapons, taxes, etc., fail to address the root cause of the Newtown tragedy and gun-violence overall. I can deduce these proposals are either meant to further political careers within the anti-gun lobby, are fearful of the pro-gun lobby due to not understanding the basic principles of responsible firearm ownership or are plainly opposed to the guarantees our current US and state constitutions afford its citizens.

Despite the fact that we still do not have a Connecticut State Police final report regarding the details of the Newtown tragedy; despite not having clear definitive systems in place to understand the actual gun violence in the state (as proof -Senator Looney's proposal SB-207 "an act creating a registry of firearm-related injuries or deaths"), our legislators feel that controlling the law-abiding gun owners will somehow make everyone "safer". The only ones that will be safer if this legislation is enacted will be the criminal element.

Some of our legislators should be educated in basic root-cause analysis. This act was committed by a disturbed individual - an individual who would have found any number of methods to inflict suffering without regard to human life. Assuming gun control is the answer is puzzling considering control isn't possible. The City of Chicago with its stifling gun control laws and insane murder rate should be a primary example as to the effectiveness of the proposed methodology.

This committee should focus on effective recommendations:

- Many schools already employ resource officers – use them. Had Sandy Hook employed one of these officers, I wonder what the outcome would have been?

- “Gun-free” zones do not work. They create opportunity for criminals and the mentally ill. Eliminate the opportunity.

- Legislators need to review existing gun laws and increase penalties for gun-related violent crimes. Stop releasing violent criminals back on our streets through early-release programs only to violate us time and again.

- Stop the wasteful government spending and invest in mental health programs that screen our youth for potential problems.

- Improve school construction specifications that focus on building intruder-resistant entrances.

- Train educators' in security and emergency preparedness.

If everyone takes a step back, in a rational analytical fashion, the answers should be evident of what we can do almost immediately in securing the safety of our schools.

Connecticut's reputation as the “Constitution State” is at stake. The state that gave birth to our national document is now poised to destroy the very essence on what makes the United States the greatest republic – the only republic – this world has ever known. Take the national lead, put aside the partisan theologies, address the root cause and formulate an effective plan.

I thank you for the opportunity to submit my views to this committee and am confident that the right course of action will be implemented.