

Dear gun violence prevention working group members and CT residents,

I was shocked and horrified by the events that took place in Sandy Hook. Sandy Hook Elementary School and that area is a location that I have visited many times. My prayers continue to go out to those affected by this tragedy. I know we probably all want to do something about what happened. I have visited the memorial, donated money, and will continue to do what I can.

The second amendment guarantees the right to keep and bear arms. It was put in place to protect that right during times like these; when emotions or politics dictate that we should do otherwise. The second amendment along with our other rights work to keep us free men and women. After events such as that in Sandy Hook the burden is on us to find ways to not let something similar happen again without damaging our rights.

There are quite a few new laws being proposed in CT to limit our access to firearms thus limiting our second amendment rights. Most are not acceptable and they infringe on that right. Bans on the firearms and magazines being discussed are not acceptable. They limit the rights of law abiding citizens and do not accomplish much else. Requirements for 50 percent tax on ammunition and requirements for liability insurance for firearms owners are attempts to "price citizens" out of their second amendment right. Requirement for registration of firearms every two years is another attempt to do this. The state of CT already records firearms sales and transfers on almost all legal sales of firearms. The state records owners names and serial numbers of firearms purchased, they have been doing this for some time now.

With respect to firearms, safe storage is important so that firearms can't "fall into the wrong hands". In addition to that background checks are important. Connecticut already requires background checks for most firearms sales.

Please consider investing in improving mental health facilities. Then persons with issues can be identified and helped before they damage our society.

Please also consider additional security at our schools. It should no longer be the case that we have schools full of small children with no protection on hand. I pay quite a lot of money in taxes. I'm sure there is a way to make this happen.

In closing please consider actions other than bans to address these issues. Damaging the constitution is not the answer. We are sworn to protect the constitution.

Thomas Cameron
CT
USA