
Dear members of the Gun Violence Prevention Working Group:

With all due respect, I feel that the volume and far overreaching scope of the gun legislation that has been proposed is both insulting and prejudicial to all law abiding gun owners of the state. It is made worse by the fact that there is no empirical evidence that any of these measures would have prevented the Newtown tragedy or any future incidents. Enforcement of existing gun laws, some of the strictest in the nation, along with professional mental health oversight into the gun permit and purchasing processes, and of course improved multi-faceted safety systems for schools, would provide a much safer environment. This can be achieved without putting the onus on citizens who did nothing to deserve punishment.

A very important and telling point that I urge you to consider in your deliberations is the ever-growing number of law enforcement professionals all across the country who have found it necessary to speak out very strongly against what they feel are unjust penalties being foisted upon the law abiding citizenry. I beg you to please read their reasoned, considered, professional words (too many to list here) which are, to my knowledge, unprecedented. These are the protectors of a lawful society, these are the men and women who have responded to similar tragedies, and would give anything to have been able to prevent the Newtown incident. These are the people who HAVE prevented incidents similar to Newtown. These are people who will have guns no matter what laws are passed, so their remarks are not self-serving. They know that “assault-style” weapons are not used in most crimes, and they know that lawfully obtained and possessed firearms are not used in most crimes. They also know that those with criminal intent will not abide by any of the proposed measures. As a former police officer, I can imagine how such strong words must weigh on them as sworn officials who are trying to uphold their oath to their state and it’s citizens. So this is why I implore you to seek out their heartfelt words and seriously consider them.

Thank you for the opportunity to address this critical matter.

Respectfully,

A. Thomas Pepe
Cheshire, CT.