

To Whom It May Concern:

I am horrified by the continuing and growing level of violent deaths attributed to guns: hand guns, assault guns, etc. I believe our current laws are inadequate in protecting innocent civilians, and would propose some thoughts to address this issue.

While there are many law-abiding gun owners in this country, the ease with which assault-style and other military type weapons can be had must be put to an end. Educated hunters will state clearly that multiple-round assault-type weapons are useless for hunting, as they are inaccurate for that purpose. So what is the purpose of these types of weapons if not to kill as many people in the shortest amount of time? They must be taken off the market, period full stop. As far as I am aware, I cannot purchase a nuclear warhead or an anti-aircraft surface-to-air missile by claiming my Second Amendment rights - neither should anyone be capable of buying other military style weapons.

I'd like to point out that it is deaths by handguns in our country that outnumber any other type of gun-related murder. The problem we face is, of course, that the weapons are already out there. We must, therefore, start somewhere and make registration of these weapons mandatory, with all 50 states participating in a common database to store information about gun ownership.

Local police will be provided with a frequent (weekly at minimum) update of the gun owners in their town. No more surprises when law enforcement enters a house, and no more ability to have dozens of weapons in a house without local police knowledge.

We must also insist that universal background checks (applies to any purchase or exchange or barter) be established immediately and with participation of all 50 states.

I would also like to see gun owner insurance be a mandatory requirement of gun ownership.

I would also suggest that a mental health certificate be a requirement for having a gun license, and this certificate should be renewed frequently - let's say once every two years so it's not too onerous.

All gun purchases require a 15-day "cooling off" period.

Gun shows will NOT be permitted to have "cash and carry" sales. Law-abiding gun owners can purchase a gun at a show, and it will be delivered after the 15-day cooling off period.

There will be a national standard for shops where guns are sold. No more guns available in pawn shops, etc. All gun stored will be made to be certified by both the state where they operate, as well as the Federal Government. Information of their sales will be shared with local authorities as well as state and federal officials.

All state and local police departments should receive a 20% increase in funding to 1) hire more officers, 2) conduct local gun-danger awareness programs, and 3) conduct local outreach programs (no-questions-asked gun donations, etc.). The first 10% increase should be made immediately, with the balance made over the following two years.

Thank you for considering these suggestions.

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