

January 26, 2013

To the good people that have been elected to represent me in government,

I am deeply and profoundly saddened by the loss of the 20 young lives and the 6 adults that cared for them in Newtown. I am a parent, and I cannot even begin to imagine the grief those families and their friends must feel. I cannot comprehend how an individual could harbor such evil towards those defenseless souls.

I am a law-abiding, tax-paying, gun-owning, citizen of the town of Bethlehem, in our great State of Connecticut. I oppose any new restrictions on, or the regulation of any types of firearms or accessories, such as "large capacity" magazines. We have laws, rules and regulations in place. Those existing laws and regulations need to be enforced.

I own a gun for the challenge and enjoyment of target shooting. I own a gun to protect my family and myself. If my family were ever threatened with deadly force, in any situation, such as a home invasion, by multiple assailants, I would not want to be limited or restricted in my choices to defend them.

I served our Country in the Army National Guard from 1980 to 1986. From when I grew up in Bethlehem, to my time in the Guard, to this day, I have always enjoyed shooting. My family has been thoroughly drilled in gun safety; my guns are inaccessible to any unauthorized persons.

Further gun-control legislation is not the answer. Criminal violence is a complex problem. I don't know the solution to this problem. We need to continue to have an open civil debate on the issues and come to a rational consensus, consistent with our constitutions. A knee-jerk, emotional reaction will not solve any problem.

There were laws in place that prohibited the crimes and atrocities committed in Newton and other places. Further restrictions or regulations will not deter criminals or deranged individuals that have no respect for life. Criminals, by nature, have no respect for the Rule of Law.

Thank you for allowing me to voice my concerns,

Andrew V. Leever
Bethlehem, CT