

Dear Gun Violence Task Force

I am saddened by the tragic events in Newtown, Connecticut, but I believe that some efforts to impose new restrictions on lawful and responsible gun owners are misguided. I do not believe that we should have a stronger assault weapon ban or a high capacity magazine ban. These I feel would not prevent gun violence. Though I do realize that something has to be done in order to keep guns out of the hands of criminals and people who intend to cause others harm. That is why I would support the following:

- - Universal background checks for all firearms sold.
- - Raising the age to purchase any type of firearms to 21 years old. I feel that at the age of 18 most individuals are just graduating high school and may not possess the maturity to safely handle a firearm.
- - Mandating the buyers of both long guns, handguns, and ammunition to have a permit.
- - Mandating firearm stores to have all guns secured. This would prevent customers from being able to handle a firearm unless they were being supervised by a store employee. This would prevent gun theft from firearm stores such as the ones that we saw at Riverview gun sales in East Windsor.
- - Stricter punishments for violent crimes and the theft of firearms.
- - Increased funding for police. A higher police presence would make me feel safer and deter and prevent crime. I would definitely pay more in taxes for more police funding.
- - More funding to get illegal guns off the street.
- - More funding for mental health care and screening.
- - Place a tax on violent video games that involve guns and shooting. Most parents allow their young children to play violent video games. Hopefully, a higher price on violent video games would deter parents from buying their children violent video games. We have to do something to address the violence in the media and video games.

I hope you consider my ideas on what you should and should not do. I do not believe we should have a stronger assault weapon ban or a high capacity magazine ban. I have outlined a variety of solutions that I feel will reduce gun violence while protecting the second amendment. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me. Thank you for your time.