

To the honorable members of the Commission,

I am a veteran, served my country in the Army, as a military policeman, and qualified as an expert marksman with the M-16. I have little sympathy for those who want to play soldier with real weapons. Americans have long accepted regulation and restrictions for the use of automobiles. Although not constitutionally protected, most citizens would consider owning and operating a car to be a right. Guns are far more potentially dangerous machines. Both reason and the common good would seem to dictate some form of reasonable control over the possession and characteristics of these weapons. Yet, I am disheartened by the probability that legislation and public policy will not be determined by either reason or the common welfare. The issue has become so "hot" that opponents are polarized, vilifying each other, with the most extreme elements dominating the debate.

I wish to add the small weight of my support for an effective ban of assault weapons, registration of gun owners, and background checks. Those who oppose this position seem well financed and smart in their tactics, yet, the tobacco industry was also well financed and even engaged in recruiting children as future consumers, but was eventually defeated. My hope is that this is the time, in light of the recent tragedy at Sandy Hook, that gun regulation is politically possible.

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