

To the members of the Bipartisan Task Force On Gun Violence Prevention And Children's Safety:

I urge you to oppose the new draconian gun control provisions that are being considered in the Connecticut General Assembly and Senate. There are a number of provisions that are being considered, in an effort to reduce gun violence, so I will only address a few.

Additional taxes on ammunition, registering quantities and purchasers, and banning online or bulk sales will do nothing to curb crime, or stop horrific acts like the mass shooting that occurred here. It is laughable to think that someone who has no qualms against murdering 26 other people would be deterred by an increased price.

Similarly, any registration scheme (be it for guns or for ammunition) does nothing to deter crime. Criminals do not register their guns; and it would be trivial for them to deface the serial number of a gun that they stole from registered owner in the first place. These measures only serve to create a chilling effect on gun-owners, and in many cases deter everyday law-abiding citizens from exercising their right to keep and bear arms.

Bans on modern sporting rifles, or so-called "assault weapons" are also ineffective at deterring crime, and are flawed in their basic premise. There is no such thing as an "assault weapon", as that is a political term, coined only to mislead people. The Federal assault weapons ban as well as the Connecticut assault weapons ban both ban guns based on purely cosmetic features such as having a pistol grip, or folding stock.

The Department of Justice and the National Institute of Justice conducted a study on the effects of the 1994-2004 Federal assault weapons ban, which is very similar to Connecticut's existing ban, and found that it had no effect on crime rates. They also concluded that, if reinstated, "its effects on gun violence would likely be small, and perhaps too small for reliable measurement, because rifles in general, including rifles referred to as "assault rifles" or "assault weapons", are rarely used in gun crimes."

Part of the failed '94 Federal assault weapons ban was a ban on magazines larger than 10 rounds. I also urge you to oppose these restrictions that endanger the lives of citizens by limiting their ability to defend themselves. It is important to remember that a madman who is intent on killing innocent people is on the offensive, and is not going to be stopped during the incredibly short time it takes to change a magazine. A citizen in their home, on the other hand, is on the defensive. To them, seconds can mean the difference between life and death, and restricting the number of rounds they have to defend themselves can potentially be fatal.

Thank you for your time, and again, I urge you to oppose these new gun control laws, which only undermine the rights of the law-abiding citizen.

Respectfully,
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