

Dear honorable members of the Bipartisan Task Force on Gun Violence Prevention and Children's Safety

I oppose further gun laws that restrict the law-abiding yet do nothing to impede the criminal. The following; written by a gentleman 238 years ago, accurately describes what the citizens of Connecticut are faced with.

"These people are either too superstitiously religious, or too cowardly for arms; they either can not or dare not defend; their property is open to anyone who has the courage to attack them The supposed quietude of a good man allures the ruffian; while on the other hand, arms, like law, discourage and keep the invader and the plunderer in awe, and preserve order in the world as well as property. The balance of power is the scale of peace. The same balance would be preserved were all the world destitute of arms, for all would be alike; but since some will not, others dare not lay them aside. Horrid mischief would ensue were one-half the world deprived of the use of them; for while avarice and ambition have a place in the heart of man, the weak will become a prey to the strong"

Thomas Paine, 1775

Weapon bans, magazine restrictions and gun-free zones do nothing to discourage the criminal and only tip the balance of power in their favor. The law-abiding citizens of Connecticut have the individual right to defend themselves and their families. Place no further restrictions on this right.

Thank you for your consideration on this matter,

Brian Gaynier
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Sent from my iPad