

Dear Distinguished Senators and Representatives of the Task Force on Gun Violence Prevention & Children's Safety,

On January 16th, 2013, Naugatuck's Patch.com published an article that quotes Representative Rebimbas as stating:

"The task force, which includes Democratic committee chairs and Republican ranking members, will provide recommendations to Senate and House leadership with the goal of producing a bipartisan emergency certified bill in late February."

While the article is quite neutral in all other aspects and rationale, it is not Representative Rebimbas's interview or statements that are of concern.

What is of concern to us, as law-abiding gun owners in the state, is the potential for an emergency certified bill to be produced that will be detrimental in any way, shape or form to gun owner's rights.

Emergency certification of a bill, especially if it affects the rights of gun owners where the law shall not be unreasonable, arbitrary, or *capricious*, creates a slippery slope. Reasonableness would dictate that four weeks from now (late February) is a fast paced time-table to be forming decisions, while engaged in other non-gun-related legislative activity, for this Task Force to make such an erratic change if such becomes the *product* of the Task Force.

It seems that there are already agendas to be met and although the Task Force is bi-partisan, The Gun Violence Co-Chair, Sen, Looney has already introduced approximately **20 bills** related to firearms, permits, ammunition, and magazine capacities. Senator Looney is also the Senate Majority Leader. Co-Chair Rep. Miner has **3** on the list, Senator Frantz has **4**, Senator Guglielmo has **3**, Representative Carter has **1**, Representative Dargan has **1**, Representative Godfrey has **4**, and Representative Walker has **1** bill introduced – all of these following the same suit of further restrictions, taxes, possession capacities, higher permit renewal and registration fees, reclassifications of long rifles and more on law-abiding citizens. This is most concerning as this is just the Gun Violence Sub-Committee.

How shall a bi-partisan sub-committee of 16 members thresh out such a delicate argument when 8 of those 16 members have already made great strides to be extremely more restrictive on gun legislation that will affect law-abiding citizens?

How shall this group tackle "common sense" solutions when the scales are already tilted 50% in the direction of more stringent controls, higher fees, reclassifications, and to be concise, outright infringement of all types?

I believe that the system is designed to be just and effective. I believe that a bi-partisan Task Force is designed to hear all sides before making informed decisions based on fact and not reaction.

I am strongly against any emergency certification of bills that come out of this Task Force that will adversely affect the rights of gun-owners. The deck seems to be already stacked, simply waiting for one more of the members to concede to further t50tions on gun-ownership. With that, I still believe that this Task Force will demonstrate due-diligence in its' decision making process. We hope that our belief in the system and our core values which make us law-abiding citizens in turn make you, our elected representatives cognizant of what is at stake here and not to go into this endeavor with a pre-established destiny for the *good* gun culture and citizenry of this State.

And as previously stated, I am firmly against any more restrictive gun-control bill, et al. along the same track that this Legislative Session may propose or hear.

Respectfully Submitted,
Brian Harte