

Dear Committee Members

I find it a good thing that Connecticut has finally begun to take prudent steps to stem the violence that plagues this great state by initiating these committees and hearings. I find it extremely upsetting that the events leading up to this have been so horrible.

Hopefully this committee will recommend policies that will attack those who perpetrate violence against us not Connecticut's law abiding gun owners. By slowing down and assessing things with our heads and not our hearts, like so many have done in the past few weeks, will produce much better results.

If we don't know what the problem is we certainly can't resolve it. In light of the fact that we understand the cause of the problem this committee is tasked with namely recommending possible solutions for gun violence caused by law-breaking individuals, **I suggest we start by gathering information on how it is these individuals are so easily obtaining guns.** Obviously they are stolen but the details who, what, where, why, and when must be discovered before any competent solutions can be put forth.

I propose the following;

First establish task forces. Here are some important items to include.

- 1) Mandate a 10 years special statewide gun violence tax of 1\$/month (that's \$12/year) on the residents of Connecticut earmarked specifically to create and support Gun Violence and Trafficking **Investigative** task forces. This would make available \$42,000,000 statewide. \$12 a year is very very little to start steaming this problem.
- 2) Mandate that all funds generated by the tax are used solely for the purpose of the task forces, will be put in a separate fund not the general fund, and that their budgets will not be voted upon by the assembly like past Connecticut gun trafficking task forces.
- 3) Mandate their mission to investigate and compile the names of those who traffic, purchase, possess and use guns illegally not simply finding individuals and arresting them as past task forces like this have done. Arrests and confiscation should be their secondary mission. Their main purpose should be to uncover individuals and the networks involved not arrest them.
- 4) Mandate a shared computer database with this information giving access to all law enforcement agencies.
- 5) Mandate that municipalities with populations larger than 100,000 be allowed to retain the funds generated from their residents to form their own task forces with the same mandated rules. This would provide the 4 largest municipalities in the state with approximately \$1,500,000. Enough to hire several full time investigators with benefits in each municipality and still have about \$500,000 a year for support money. My numbers may be slightly off but you get the point. The rest of the funding should be allocated to 3 or 4 state districts which should be setup in proportion to their gun violence.

- 6) Mandate the use of all legal modern techniques like cell phone records and GPS, vehicle GPS, plea bargains and the like to establish connections and acquaintances to track down and document these individuals. If parents can track and identify their children's activities and acquaintances I am sure law enforcement can also.

Second initiate a gun ownership awareness campaign like Connecticut and the country did with drunk driving. Here are some important items to include.

- 1) Address safe storage issues.
- 2) Educate children and parents on gun safety.
- 3) Establish and offer ongoing seminars and programs in communities and schools directed at relevant issues and concerns. For gun owners and non-owners, parents and children.
- 4) Use television ads to promote short safety issues like what has been done with drugs and alcohol.

We finally get a chance to correct this issue because of a horrible tragedy. Gun owners relish the thought of the day when the normal routine of simply passing restrictive laws ends. I certainly hope that cooler heads will prevail and not miss this opportunity by simply throwing arbitrary restrictions on those who don't perpetrate these crimes. Numerous existing laws should have prevented the Newtown tragedy but did not because statutes are simply prosecutor's tools. Laws don't stop anyone from attempting to do anything if they don't care about the consequences. They are just tools that Prosecutors use to track them down and punish them if they live through the ordeal. No law will ever prevent mentally unstable people or those with no respect for the law from doing horrible things. Sick and evil people with evil intent need to be identified and incarcerated, it is the only way we are going to be able to insure ours and our children's safety against gun violence. I hope you consider my proposals which will begin the process.

Thank You for your time.

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