

Testimony for Gun Violence Prevention Working Group
Legislative Office Building, Room 2C
Monday, January 28, 2013

Members of the Gun Violence Prevention Working Group,

My family and I are deeply troubled by the senseless acts of violence at Sandy Hook and our thoughts are with the families and everyone affected by this tragedy. At times like these, words are little comfort for grieving families, but hopefully the outpouring of kindness and support has helped in some small way.

Once the full scope of the events became apparent, my wife and I discussed what should be done to prevent another tragedy like this from occurring. As grandparents of a child that will soon be entering kindergarten, the safety of our public schools is something that we take very serious.

Within days of the shooting, it became very obvious that the Main focus had changed from what can be done to prevent another such tragedy, to calls for further restrictions on law abiding gun owners. My main concern as a grandparent is what can be done to make our schools safer. To do so, legislation should be more about school security and less about gun control.

As a concerned grandparent and responsible gun owner, I am opposed to the numerous proposed gun control bills. Some of the proposed restrictions are:

- Banning the sale of commonly owned firearms and magazines.
- Oppressive taxes on the purchase of ammunition and firearms.
- Additional licensing required when purchasing ammunition, a semi-automatic firearm or a firearm that has a pistol grip.
- Registration of ALL firearms, with plans to require re-registration of firearms every two years.

Since these restrictions will be ignored by criminals and madmen, they will only affect law abiding citizens. The proposed restriction will do nothing to make our schools more secure, lower gun violence in Connecticut or prevent another tragedy like Sandy Hook. Even worse, some of the proposed laws will make felons out of average citizens who do not realize that their magazine or firearms are now illegal, or that they need to register firearms that have been in their family for generations.

I am also very concerned that legislation is being rushed before all details have been released. While some information has been released regarding the Sandy Hook tragedy, the Connecticut state police will not release a full report until June of this year. It is distressing that Connecticut legislators are trying to push through numerous, intrusive gun control bills before all facts are known.

It is also disturbing that the Connecticut legislator plan on using the Emergency Certification process next month to bypass the normal bill making process. This will limit the input from the residents of Connecticut to publically speak on the specifics of a bill that will be without doubt the most important legislation of this decade. I ask that all legislators support having a public

hearing so the residents of Connecticut can have their voices heard on any final bill that is created from the recommendations of the various task forces.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration of my position.

Regards
Christopher Coniam
Manchester, CT