

asaferconnecticut@cga.ct.gov

BIPARTISAN TASK FORCE ON GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION AND CHILDREN'S SAFETY

ATTENTION: GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION WORKING GROUP

LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BLDG. ROOM 2C, JANUARY 28, 2013 10:00 A.M.

As a Connecticut native who has spent a majority of his life living in towns surrounding Newtown, I was shocked and saddened by the tragedy that took place in Sandy Hook. The families who lost loved ones will be forever scarred by this tragedy and my heart goes out to them and all those who were witness to this senseless violence.

I am, however, deeply concerned about the political feeding frenzy that has co-opted this tragedy. Politicians have been tripping over each other trying to see who can come up with the most extreme way they can punish the law abiding gun owners of Connecticut, without even waiting to hear the results of the investigations currently under way. And now we hear that these reports have been delayed, and that we may actually never hear all the details of this reports. Meanwhile our governor is publicly urging you to come up with recommendations for legislation before the current legislative session ends. Certainly in any other situation where a crime has been committed there at least is an impartial, thorough and measured review of all the findings before any thought is given to modifying the laws of our state. So why is there such a mad rush to pass more gun control laws in such a short amount of time, especially in a state known for its strict laws concerning guns?

I realize the magnitude of this tragedy impacts us all, and certainly all of us wish that it could have been prevented. But the facts, as they are publically available, do not lead us to any one specific thing that actually would have stopped this, short of having an armed guard in the school. Yet many of our politicians, urged on by the media and anti-gun groups, have desperately decided they must be seen as doing something, even if it that "something" is dragging out the previously proved useless gun bans of over a decade ago and re-imposing them with even more restrictions.

I challenge you to come up with a true solution to what is actually the root cause of this type of tragedy. Simply put, how do you stop crazy? Short of that, all the rehashed solutions that have been resurrected and bantered about will, if imposed, be merely political salve. Those without a political agenda, who have knowledge of this subject, will tell you that "banning an ugly gun" or restricting a magazine size will not guarantee a tragedy like this will never be repeated. It only gives people a false sense of security. Should your committee recommend these types of measures you will have again punished those among us who have followed every law, passed every background

check and, as I have found, those who most diligently practice and promote gun safety.

I urge the committee members not to succumb to the onslaught of media and political pressure that is being focused on you. I would hope that the implied impartiality of your group comes to the forefront as you go about your tasks to produce recommendations that actually address the root cause of this tragedy.

Thank you for your service.

Respectfully,
Clyde Finger
Oxford, CT