

Testimony for the Gun Violence Prevention Working Group

Dear Legislators -

My name is Dom Basile and I reside in Oakville. I am writing to express my strong **opposition** to the many gun control related bills that are currently being proposed.

I am speaking as someone that is a concerned citizen and have about 25 years of experience and training within the gun community as well as multiple certifications in various disciplines. I have also been doing some volunteer work in Sandy Hook and, through my interaction with various members of the community, feel that I have a better than average understanding of the sentiments of those in that area.

I would assume that the presumed goal of this Gun Violence Working Group would be to emphasize on the reduction of violence and not target the lawful ownership of guns as its objective. If we can agree on this basic premise then I will vow my full support and look forward to working with you.

The events at Sandy Hook Elementary have left a lasting scar on all of us with a moral compass and we all want to you to make well educated decisions and take the proper corrective measures. I do not envy your task and thank you in advance for stepping forward in this undertaking.

I have gone over the events of that day countless times and have come up with the same conclusion each and every time; every single facet of what Adam Lanza did that day was already covered by existing law; he stole someone else's guns, he committed murder, he stole a car to transport himself, he was too young to possess the handguns, etc. There are absolutely no voids that need to be addressed. It is clear that we have ample gun laws that work but only if they are enforced.

It has been reported by NBC and other news sources that Adam Lanza tried to purchase a rifle on December 11 and was denied. Why then was there no follow up by law enforcement? As someone that sometimes works in a gun shop I can attest to the fact that of the occasional denials I've received from the DPS on getting an authorization number for a gun sale there has never been a law enforcement officer calling or stopping by to obtain information for a follow up investigation.

Even when doing a long gun sale there are still forms to fill out. The potential purchaser of the firearm needs to fill out these forms completely and answer the following questions:

- Have you ever been convicted of a felony?
- Have you been convicted of domestic violence?
- Are you the subject of a restraining order?
- Have you ever been confined for mental illness?
- Have you ever been discharged from custody by reason of mental disease or defect?
- Are you the subject of a court issued seizure order?
- Are you the actual buyer of the firearm?
- Are you under indictment for a felony?
- Are you a fugitive from justice?
- Are you an unlawful user of a controlled substance?
- Have you been dishonorably discharged from the Armed Forces?
- Have you ever renounced your U.S. citizenship?
- Are you illegally in the U.S.?

Furthermore, after answering those questions the potential purchaser must sign and date attesting that **the above answers are true and correct, providing false information on this document is a violation of sec.29-34 and/or 29-37e of the CGS and constitutes a Class D Felony.**

I ask, do you honestly think that had Adam Lanza received a phone call or, better yet, a knock on the door by a law enforcement official inquiring about his attempted gun purchase, that he would have followed through and done what he did just three days later?

Several years ago there was the formation of the Firearms Trafficking Task Force whose job it was to curtail the proliferation of illegal guns. The investigation of denials would fall under their purview. In their freshman year they were successful in removing hundreds of firearms from criminal possession, making our communities safer, and then our legislators decided to defund and disband them. I am happy to see that there is proposed legislation to bring them back and I urge you to support those bills. In doing so you will be taking the proper corrective measures to help prevent another Sandy Hook from happening while fulfilling your obligations to the good citizens of this state by going after those that are the true threat to society while respecting the rights of those that are law abiding.

In closing I would like to welcome anyone sitting on this committee to contact me should they want to discuss any issues concerning this testimony, firearms or the Sandy Hook incident.

I thank you for your time.

Dom Basile
90 Sunnyside Ave.
Oakville, CT 06779
860.274.8411
dot_dom1@msn.com