

Greetings, Thank you for the formation of this task force, and for the opportunity to be able to speak to you today. It is truly my hope that this bi-partisan task force does in fact have an open mind when listening to the testimony presented.

I watched the first meeting of the taskforce, and noticed a few things that bother me, one of which was the apparent need for some conclusion to come quickly. I disagree, I would much rather see the legislators take their time to ensure that this is done right the first time.

I was particularly disturbed by how quickly some legislators submitted proposed legislation after the tragedy at Sandy Hook, instantly looking to try to control guns, implement higher taxes and limit ammunition, by introducing such quick legislation, left me feeling disgusted, seeing it as the Government attempting to find a way to capitalize or cash in on law abiding citizens using the tragedy as a springboard. The Federal Bureau of Investigation's crime statistics clearly show that murders committed with hammers and other blunt objects far exceed that of even the world's most deadly so called "assault rifles", yet I haven't seen any legislation to try to prohibit, or control, or serialize hammers.

While I agree something needs to be done I want it clear that I am opposed to any bill that infringes, hinders, or prohibits my RIGHT to defend my family or myself, or that limits the capability of the type of arms I choose to use to do so!

I would like to introduce a different approach. I don't think the problem is with the Second Amendment at all, the problem is with Education. Let me explain....

Are you all aware of the Fire Triangle? Basically it is the 3 elements needed in order for a fire to happen, (Oxygen/Heat/Fuel) if you don't have one of those elements fire can't happen!

I realize this hearing is about Gun Violence, but what I'm about to propose takes it one step further, and addresses Violence as a whole, and doesn't just limit it to guns. If you use the same fire triangle example with Guns or Violence in general you will see that just about everything in life revolves around the triangle.



Like the fire triangle without one of the elements available a threat or task can't be completed, even a simple task like turning on the TV can't be done, simply put the TV remote on one side, the TV on the other...without human interaction pushing the remote, to energize it the TV won't come on!

I know the Anti-Second Amendment folks will state, well this is simple, just remove the guns, and you won't have anymore violence, but we all know that is a fairy tale, by doing so you would at that point strip every legal citizens rights to protect themselves, and in the United Kingdom where *guns are banned*, shows gun crime has soared by 35%, but how can that be guns are banned? According to the FBI there are over 200 million privately owned firearms in the United States are you sure you want to go down that road....it's a slippery slope. By removing, taxing or limiting the capabilities of guns, you are only hurting law abiding citizens, as we know criminals are not called criminals because they obey laws, they will find a way....you can't legislate "evil".

I propose the solution of education. Citizens need to be educated...my 12 year old daughter took the Connecticut State Firearms Safety course last year, and this was her first year of hunting with me. She understands the capabilities, the consequences, and how to be responsible with a firearm, because of that course. Even if my children don't have the desire to accompany me in the field to hunt, I encouraged them to take the course anyway, to become informed, and to get educated....in fact my other daughter doesn't at the moment show an interest in hunting with me, but I want her to attend regardless.

Another reason, is this if I didn't have firearms in my home, or hunt, I would want my children to be educated, because by virtue of where we live the odds are they will visit a friends home where there are guns, who may not be as responsible as myself....once again it's about education, Proverbs 22:6 says: Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it.

There is already a school curriculum available out there called (NASP) National Archery in the Schools Program, over *Over 10 million youth have participated in Archery via the NASP® program*, Over 10,000 schools have joined. First and foremost in each NASP® school program is Safety. It just so happens that according to the National Safety Council, archery is safer than every ball sport offered in schools except....table tennis.

WHAT DO TEACHERS SAY?

Students are enthusiastic about learning archery

Student behavior and attendance is improved on archery days

Students who historically resisted PE class are eager to participate in archery

Students of all genders, sizes, and abilities are enjoying success, as well as special needs children.

I lead an Archery based Ministry at our church called Centershot...We are the first and only church in the entire state of Connecticut to offer this program, I can attest to you personally, I've seen changes in the way children behave when they have a positive role model leading them, and taking an interest in teaching them. I have had repeat attendees come and participate in my course, they love it, and we teach them a life skill they can carry with them the rest of their lives.

In closing I'd like to thank the committee for your time, and consideration, and urge you to focus first on educating, before limiting or infringing on the rights of innocent law abiding citizens.