

A few thoughts from a concerned citizen, father of a 5 year old, hunter, gun owner and peace officer.

I strongly urge the committee to take a reasoned and fact based approach to the issue of gun violence and school security. Do not demonize guns, lawful gun owners or reputable dealers. The freedom of the American citizen should not be impinged based upon the senseless acts of a few homicidal maniacs.

With regards to certain proposals:

1.) 50% increase in ammunition tax. Why? So law abiding citizens have to pay more to hunt, shoot clays, target shoot? This makes us safer how? It doesn't! If a homicidal person is hell bent on killing as many people as they can, and die doing it, will they care that they're spending \$15 instead of \$10 per box of ammo? Doubtful! I care, as do many other recreational shooters, and it'll have serious consequences on the shooting sports and tax base of CT.

2. Center fire rim fire ammunition. There is an important distinction between center fire and rim fire (.22) ammunition with regards to magazine size. A .22 semi-auto rifle typically can hold 20+ rounds, they're great for plinking and target practice and NEVER the choice of weapon for mass shootings. This distinction needs to be recognized.

3. Precedent: the Supreme Court has greatly limited the scope of State and Local Governments from infringing on the 2nd Amendment (Heller v. Washington, DC and McDonald v. Chicago). These decisions are recent and binding to our great State of Connecticut. We cannot act outside the scope of the Constitution, this is made clear by these decisions. Anyone participating in this process needs to read these decisions.

3. The committee members have an obligation to consider legal, relevant measures and not reactionary proposals that are outside the scope of the Constitution (IE, Sen. Meyers SB 122, totally illegal and poorly thought out, a naked pandering for political points). Members also have an obligation to become informed about firearms and firearm owners. I think the members will be unpleasantly surprised by the strong reaction of the people of Connecticut to an overstepping of Legislative power in the face of the US Constitution. The political ramifications will be huge.

4. Consider the role of mental health, the media's glorification of violence and the inappropriate use of firearms as well as other societal factors, not just gun ownership. Hollywood and Silicon Valley continue to turn out violent movies and games that have desensitized our youth to violence. This must be addressed.

5. Recognize that the vast majority of gun owners are law abiding citizens. That any new laws will negatively impact good, decent people while failing to impact the target group-- criminals and homicidal maniacs. No amount of legislation will stop the criminal element, only provide punishment after the fact. A truly determined individual will not be stopped by a law....just look at the ineffective drug laws, DUI laws...etc. they punish, but do they deter? However, law abiding citizens whose 2nd amendment rights are curtailed will become easier victims to the criminal element.

6. Airports, train stations, malls and bridges have armed security... Why not our schools? Schools remain a very soft target with a very important commodity...our future! We need to protect the little ones! I'm amazed that even after 9/11 our schools remain unguarded.

Finally, I wish you well in your endeavors and hope that you make reasoned, informed and legal decisions. I do not envy you in this role but hope that you are successful,

David Ardito
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Sent from my iPhone