

Dear Gun Violence Task Force,

In the wake of recent tragedies, there have been many political discussions regarding gun control and gun restrictions. I am writing to you today to respectfully ask that you vote against any gun control legislation, including any bans or restrictions on "assault" rifles or handguns, any bans or restrictions on magazines, ammunition, and any further restrictions on where and when firearms can lawfully be possessed.

Like everyone across this country, I am horrified by the disgusting violence and mass shootings that take place far too often. Recently, we witnessed the unthinkable when children and school teachers became the targets of a mad man. I can't imagine the sorrow the parents of those children will be facing for the rest of their lives.

I am a husband. I am a father. I am a grandfather. I have two young twin grandchildren, a boy and a girl. My wife and I are well-educated and successful. I am a professional who has held high level financial positions my entire adult life.

I am not going to waste your time outlining what I feel are the many facts, research studies, and general logic that prove restricting firearms will do absolutely nothing to prevent future tragedies. In my opinion, no matter what political party you belong to and no matter what your ideology is, I believe most people deep in their hearts know that banning firearms from good people is never going to prevent tragedies. Taking away the rights of good, law-abiding Americans will never under any circumstances solve our problems.

I love to hunt. I love to target shoot. I enjoy using all kinds of shotguns, rifles and handguns. Despite what people may say about so called "assault rifles" not being used for hunting, I can tell you that I have two ARs which I use exclusively for coyote hunting in Maine. I have permits in three states to carry concealed firearms for protection from lunatics like the kid in Newtown. The second amendment has nothing to do with hunting and target shooting. The right to bear arms is guaranteed by our Constitution, and we have elected you to uphold it. Perhaps our leaders should focus on the extremely violent video games and movies the Newtown killer watched in his room 24 hours a day. Why isn't anyone talking about "video control" instead of gun control? Because it's much easier to blame it on the big bad gun.

Again, I respectfully urge you to vote against any and all legislation that further restricts or bans the sale, possession, use, or ownership of any firearms. Specifically, please oppose the following bills proposed in the CT state legislature: HB-5112, HB-5268, HB-5452, SB-1, SB-42, SB-122, SB-124, SB-140, SB-161.

In a free society, there will always be bad people and there is always going to be risk. I do believe there should be firearm background checks. I do believe the true solution to preventing these tragedies lies somewhere between addressing mental health issues and providing security in public places, such as schools. I am all in favor of taking meaningful steps to address violence in our communities, but banning and restricting firearms from the vast majority of us is unquestionably not the answer. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,  
David M. Karchner