

To whom it may concern,

It may seem that you have a tough job to do deciding on all of the new proposals for limiting firearms and use from the law abiding citizens that follow these laws, but truth be told, it could be quite simple. File them all in a junk folder and hit delete.

The only people these bills will hurt are the ones that actually follow the laws already on the books. These current laws are some of the strictest in the country. I would urge you to enforce these more, rather than creating new ones that will make good citizens, citizens that take pride in their state, into criminals.

Everyone I know of would like to come up with a working solution to ending the horrific undertakings of another Adam Lanza. Limiting good people to 10, 7, or 1 round in their legal weapon is not the answer. Do I have the answer? No, but I have theories to a good discussion that could lead to the answer, as do hundreds of other law abiding citizens. That discussion begins with eliminating “gun free” zones. Starting with schools, if legal gun owners were able to be armed picking up their children, attending school activities, or teachers and school staff able to be armed, it would send a clear message to the lunatics preying on them that “Connecticut has had enough and will not tolerate any more senseless acts against our children”! These psychopaths are looking for the easiest route, by sending this message, that route is now blocked. Instead of going after our children, they may instead take their own life. Suicide is not the answer either, but in a worst case scenario, it may have saved lives. Of course there would have to be provisions like carrying concealed only or choosing who or how many teachers and staff would be armed, but as I mentioned, it is the beginning of a discussion, one that, if voted on, would get the vast majority for approval.

There are a few excellent sources here in Connecticut that would gladly sit down with law makers and come up with sensible approaches to the issues at hand. Groups and people that follow, study, and keep up with Connecticut laws for firearms and have the whole state in mind when doing so. Being a firearm owner, we do not only think about ourselves and “how and why are we being targeted now” (but the thought does come up), we also think of everyone around us whether they carry a weapon or not. We are folks who care about other people. We have served our country, the community; we may bag your groceries, be your co-worker, and yes, teach your children. Most of all, we respect each other and everyone in general enough to want to protect our families and loved ones should the need arise. I personally, would do everything in my power to protect yours as well. I feel it would be my duty as a legal permit holder to defend any person, should they be in imminent life threatening danger, and to do something about it. Many folks feel the same way.

The 2nd Amendment is clear; the people’s right to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed. The Supreme Court has held that also, unconnected with any militia; we are able to use those weapons for any lawful purpose such as protecting the home and self-defense. It goes on to include that this is not only a federal law, but also applies to the state level as well (findlaw.com, 2008). I urge you, the task force, to think clearly about the effects these new proposals will do to our state and the law abiding citizens within if passed. The criminals are going to be criminals with, or without these new laws, restricting our legal rights only gives them their permit to continue.

Thank you for your time and consideration,
David Ouimette

Norwich, Connecticut.

Reference,

Findlaw.com(2008) *Second Amendment-U.S. Constitution*, (p2)

<http://constitution.findlaw.com/amendment2/amendment.html>