

From: Diane Samples <dianesamples@me.com>

Date: January 30, 2013 11:54:57 AM EST

To: "asaferconnecticut@cga.ct.gov" <asaferconnecticut@cga.ct.gov>

Subject: Gun Violence Working Group

A Connecticut citizen's proposal for gun law reforms designed to create a safer society and culture for our children and all citizens while allowing law abiding citizens to keep "traditional" weapons used for hunting, competitive sport shooting, and personal/home protection. Non traditional weapons include all semiautomatic weapons.

If there is lost revenue and/or job losses in the state of Connecticut as a result of mandated changes in gun sales, usage, etc., that will have to be dealt with in the same way job losses are dealt with in any other industry. We cannot sacrifice the physical and emotional health of our citizens for the economic well being of other individuals or industries. There is precedent for this-- cigarettes, asbestos, chemical fertilizers, pharmaceuticals, etc. Industries must change and adapt to the economic and societal/cultural changes that are reflected in their business landscape-- the gun industry has no right to consider themselves different or special than any other industry.

What must be done:

1. Universal background checks for guns of all kinds strategically linked to nationwide databases tracking data related to criminal activity, mental health, etc.
2. A complete ban on ALL semiautomatic weapons of ALL kinds with provisions that would easily and quickly address any attempts by the gun industry to circumvent the law by design changes, changes in language used to describe weapons, cosmetic changes, engineering changes, etc.
3. A nationwide, comprehensive "buy back" and destruction of all semiautomatic weapons and accompanying clips and ammunition (see Australia's approach to gun reform).
4. A comprehensive, national registration and tracking system for anyone who wants to own a firearm of any kind. A gun must be registered similar to an automobile and ALL sales must be reported and tracked just as cars are. Owners must be required to reregister their weapon on an annual basis and be held responsible for its condition and whereabouts.
5. Gun owners must have a license to purchase and keep firearms and ammunition of all kinds. They must attend a mandatory educational program, similar to what a driver must do before being licensed to drive. They must pass a paper test proving they are familiar with the laws, liability issues, data regarding accidental shootings, etc., and a usage test proving they know how to safely use the firearm they want to purchase. Program would include, among other things, education relating to the laws regarding gun ownership, proper usage and storage.
6. Anyone wishing to own a firearm will be held liable for their weapon's use in all instances. if their weapon is used by another person in the commission of a crime involving loss of life or property, they will be held liable for such damage through the appropriate laws and channels of

restitution. This means an owner can be determined to have been negligent and thus serve time in prison and/or be sued and potentially lose their assets, pay fines, etc.

7. All gun owners will be required to pay a minor "registration fee" annually to help support the implementation of legislation designed to register and track all firearms. Gun manufacturers shall pay a much higher fee for every firearm sold, with revenues going to fund licensing and research activities.

8. Gun manufacturers shall be mandated to include and develop appropriate technology designed to make gun safety and tracking efficient, comprehensive, exact, and accessible by all pertinent governmental agencies.

9. Gun manufacturers shall be mandated to pay annual fees that will support governmentally guided research focused on gun violence and public safety and all data shall be prepared and published for complete and transparent consumption by the public.

10. Tax ammunition and track all sales of ammunition.

11. Current and newly adopted (future) laws regarding firearms must be strictly and fully enforced, consequences must be increased and more punitive than currently exist.

12. Ban all gun-related riders to legislative acts.

13. Appoint a leader to the ATF who is committed to reform of gun laws and will stand up to the gun lobby.

14. Gun manufacturers will be held liable for their products and they must be held to safety regulations similar to other products, including mandated recalls, public notifications, etc.

Diane Samples
8 Sunnyside Lane
New Fairfield, CT 06812

Sent from Diane's iPad