

Ladies and Gentlemen of The Gun Violence Prevention Working Group,

I would like to address the subject of gun control. As a retired teacher and State of CT employee, firearms owner, CT Carry Permit holder, and NRA member I believe I have a well balanced perspective on this subject and would like to share it with you today.

I currently have mixed feelings about many of the proposals currently being proposed in the legislature. The sheer number of proposals is legion, which should tell you something, but I would like to address this committee generally. I am of the opinion that there is a movement to punish the general firearm owning public by denying and or severely limiting their rights under our Constitution, because of the actions of an evil individual. I say evil not sick because only evil murders little children, and history is replete with examples of the potential for evil to manifest itself. Regardless of the tools at hand evil individuals or groups have been able to exact a devastating cost to humanity by using whatever means available. To use the tragedy at Sandy Hook to achieve a political agenda heretofore unattainable by some is however not the answer as evil people don't honor the law, they disregard and abuse it.

It is understandable I suppose to overreact when a tragedy of this magnitude occurs however, many of the proposals will serve no end other than to satisfy certain people's vision of what our society should be like, liberty be damned. To require firearms owners to secure liability insurance is just one such example. It would not have made one bit of difference at Sandy Hook if it had been law at the time. Another example is the limit on magazine capacity as the police investigation revealed many of the magazines used by the shooter at Sandy Hook were only partially used indicating he took special care to maintain a fully loaded firearm. This could have been achieved with a ten round clip as well.

As a retired teacher I take issue with some of the ideas being floated about like arming teachers. Arming a grade school teacher I suppose would be understandable however I taught secondary school and would be more concerned with a violent student, or group of students attacking the teacher and securing the teacher's gun. No, I don't think this is a proper response but the idea of "gun free" zones was a bad idea as well as it only advertises where the easy shoots are. Making available to the general public information about permit holders would also serve only to advertise where to go to steal firearms. Taxing firearms and ammunition at an exorbitant rate obviously has revenue generation as it's only motive and is discriminatory in nature. Not a fair approach for a free and just society. I do however fully support the idea of universal background checks, provided that more information is available to the proper authorities about a person's mental situation.

I would like to close by suggesting that this committee's best approach would be that of addressing the violent tendencies of today's society because therein lies the solution. Not punishing the citizenry for the actions of an evil individual.

Thank you.

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