

**From:** Fred Hayward <fhayward@att.net>  
**To:** Rep. Christie Carpino <christie.carpino@housegop.ct.gov>  
**Sent:** Wed, January 23, 2013 11:49:31 PM  
**Subject:** Re: A New Legislative Session

Christie:

Thank you for the update. The intention of this letter is to strongly oppose any legislation that would hinder the use of firearms, increase the taxes on firearms or ammunition, or have gun license renewal go to an annual event. To begin, just the proposed annual renewal process would greatly stress the Department of Safety and their strained resources, and place an unnecessary burden on responsible gun owners. Secondly, the proposal of increased taxes on a certain segment of the population is definitely discriminatory, and thirdly, Connecticut has one of the strictest procedures of licensing and background checks already in place.

We have enough existing gun laws that need to be enforced more at the judicial level, and increased lengthy sentences should be imposed on those who commit a crime with a stolen weapon. Do not let convicted repeat offenders out of confinement on good behavior so they can break the law again, get an illegal weapon on the street, or by committing another home invasion.

As sad as the Sandy Hook incident is, it is not the responsible target shooter, hunter and sportsman or law abiding citizen wanting to protect themselves or their property that commit such heinous acts, it is mentally unbalanced individuals that commit these horrible tragedies. Perhaps all mental health professionals should immediately report, on a weekly basis, all individuals that might be unfit to own a firearm to the Department of Public Safety, or local police.

The assault weapons ban is misguided anger. The news network, MSNBC, recently reported that "new information" about Sandy Hook has been brought to light, noting that the shooter DID NOT use an assault rifle, but used pistols instead. Sadly, people use a knee jerk approach to these terrible events, and some uninformed or misguided federal or state legislators try to change the laws too quickly, in an event to solve the problem. If change is needed, form a committee that has balanced participants, so that law abiding citizens don't get the short end of the stick due to hasty legislation.

Finally, prohibition does not work. It did not work for alcohol, and it won't work for firearms. Countries that have banned guns still have shootings, and the use of knives to attack children and citizens have increased. Since 2010, Japan has had four incidents where knife yielding individuals have attacked children at schools.

Sincerely,  
Fred Hayward  
Cromwell, Ct.