

To members of the Gun Violence Prevention Workgroup,

I am writing this letter to voice my opposition to the State of CT enacting new restrictive gun laws in the wake of the Sandy Hook shooting as a means of preventing such tragedies in the future. There are quite a few new proposed laws that would have no effect on reducing mass shootings or even to stop every day crime in CT. These include, but are not limited to;

HB-5112,HB-5268,HB-5452,HB-5467,HB-5651,HB-5654,SB-122,SB-124,SB-140,SB-501,SB-504,SB-505,SB-506

All these laws do is restrict the rights of law abiding citizens, increasing the costs to protect ourselves and our families, and limit access to the tools necessary for self defense.

A lot is being said about so called “assault weapons” and “high capacity magazines” as being the most important items to restrict or ban. Adam Lanza used a Bushmaster AR15 to commit the horrible crime at Sandy Hook, but it was not the gun’s fault, nor was it the magazine capacity. In fact, no law would have prevented the massacre there. There was no background check done because he didn’t purchase the guns legally, he didn’t even purchase them at all. He murdered his mother and stole the guns. If his mother didn’t own those guns, he could have stolen them from anyone. No amount of laws will prevent a criminal from committing these crimes or any crime, as a criminal by definition doesn’t follow the law.

The only thing that these laws will do is make it harder for the hundreds of thousands of law abiding CT gun owners to purchase the firearms they feel will best suit them for defense of themselves. When someone is attacked, and they need to defend themselves, who can determine the amount of ammunition that they might need? If you make the law that only 10 round magazines can be used, what if 11 is needed? The time required to change a magazine in the middle of a self defense situation can mean the difference between life and death. This is the reason why police carry “high capacity” magazines, because when you need to use it, you need access to as much as possible to stop the threat.

The federal government has admitted that a ban on “assault weapons” would not have stopped Sandy Hook, or Aurora, CO., just like it didn’t stop Columbine, which was committed in the middle of the previous assault weapons ban. Overall gun crime has been going down since the sunset of that ban, more proof that restrictive gun laws do not have an effect on crime rates. Look at Chicago, which has one of the strictest gun control laws in the country. There were close to 500 people murdered there last year alone. Gun laws don’t affect criminals, and don’t reduce crime. The federal government admits that all they want is to dry up the supply of the guns they don’t like over time. It won’t have any other effect than to limit access to one of the most popular rifles in the country.

Please don’t punish us for the acts of madmen. Please don’t restrict our ability to defend ourselves. These laws won’t change anything. We need to look at the root of the problem if we want to stop these crimes in the future. We need to look at the person that commits these horrible crimes, not simply use a popular modern firearm as a scapegoat.

Thank you,

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