

Honorable Legislators

Recently released FBI statistics show that more people are killed every year with blunt objects such as hands, feet and clubs than are killed with a firearm. Notice that I used the word "with". Like hands, feet and clubs, firearms are also objects that have no mind of their own and are unable to produce any action of their own accord. They are simply a tool to do the bidding of their operator.

Criminals, by definition, break the law. Therefore enacting new laws will have no effect on the criminals, only on law abiding citizens who are at a disadvantage to the criminals because we choose to follow the rules.

The horrific events that have taken place at Columbine, the movie theater in Aurora, CO and at Newtown CT have all occurred in Gun Free Zones. Obviously putting up a sign saying no guns allowed is not a deterrent to those who intend harm.

The shooter at the mall in Oregon was stopped by a legally armed citizen who had his pistol aimed at the shooter but did not shoot because he could not be sure that he had a clear shot. He held his fire to keep from potentially injuring an innocent person. When the shooter saw a gun pointed at him he went around a corner and killed himself.

Communities that have stricter restrictions on firearm ownership such as Chicago, NYC and D.C. have a higher incidence of violent crime whereas less restrictive locals have a reduced violent crime rate. If you were criminal would you prefer that your potential victims armed or disarmed? (John R. Lott Jr. "More Guns Less Crime" 1998.)

Considering a ban on a particular type of firearm based on cosmetic features or a "high capacity" magazine, is really no different than a ban on say, red convertible's with a white top or a motorcycle based on a racing design because it can go faster than the posted speed limit and is therefore unsafe for people to own because of the amount of damage it could do if misused.

As a law abiding citizen, husband and parent, I feel that I should not have undue restrictions placed upon me to defend myself, my family and community if the need should ever arise.

Thank you for the opportunity to express my opinion.

Respectfully,

Howard Holtz

Windsor, CT.