

To the Bipartisan Task Force On Gun Violence Prevention And Children's Safety:

It is saddening to read the testimony of gun rights advocates in light of recent events.

We are told guns laws never help, in spite the experience of all other industrialized countries. They have restricted gun ownership far more than America, and not lost an ounce of freedom.

If gun ownership is the best way to stop a bad guy with a gun, why isn't the United States, with more guns than any other developed nation, the safest place on earth?

We are told the numbers of those killed with assault weapons are small, as if a toy or medicine which killed twenty children would not be banned.

We are told that further restrictions would remove jobs from Connecticut and cost us economically. Who currently pays for all the injury, trauma, destruction, investigation and security caused by guns? Or are the gun manufacturers and dealers honorably stepping up to pay for the loss they cause?

We are told further restrictions would only punish law abiding gun owners, and that criminals never obey the rules. Is obeying a reasonable law punishment? Is there any statute ever enacted that could not be disobeyed? Does the existence of criminals, or the possibility of criminal acts, now justify the failure to act for the good of society?

We are told gun ownership is a Constitutional right, as if the children of Sandy Hook had no Constitutional right to their own lives.

Clearly, if there were not so much money to be made in the gun trade, there would be no debate.

We want the state to ban military style weapons that allow the shooter to fire many bullets quicker than a revolver, and to re-load so fast he can't be overpowered. How is such a weapon more essential or even better than any other gun for hunting, target shooting, or self-defense?

It is imperative that you act now. Impose mandatory background checks and waiting periods on all sales and transfers. Enact an assault weapons ban and a ban on large capacity ammunition magazines of more than 7 rounds.

We need our legislators to be as brave as our teachers.

Thank you.

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