

Testimony to the Bipartisan Task Force on Gun Violence Prevention and Children's Safety.

Jason D Smith
9 Farnum Hill
Bethel CT 06801

I am a law-abiding citizen and responsible gun owner, residing in Bethel Connecticut.

I am saddened by the tragic events in Newtown Connecticut, but I feel new restrictions on lawful and responsible gun owners are misguided. Violent crime with firearms has declined since the Federal "assault weapons ban" expired in 2004. Connecticut has some of the most restrictive laws concerning rifles in the nation. These laws did not stop the events in Newtown. Criminals do not follow the law. People that intend to commit violent criminal acts are not deterred by laws. Horrific acts committed by the evil and/or insane are no reason to punish the innocent and law abiding members of our society. Unfortunately people are quick to blame inanimate objects rather than admit that we may be failing as a society to see the real problems. The fact that 17-28 year old males in this country cant seem to get the mental health help they need is appalling. The fact that parents with mentally challenged children aren't given the proper help and assistance they need is appalling. The fact that in this day and age its easier to prescribe a pill to a young adult rather than help them with the issues at hand is appalling. Drugs like prozac, paxil, zoloft are being given to our kids to mask they're issues and if one pill doesn't work they try another and another and another until the poor kid either gives up on the doctors or on themselves. Its easier to give them a pill than it is to admit that they may actually have a problem. We need to figure out a better system to help these young kids cope with they're issues whether they're depressed, angry from being bullied, or just confused and scared, Its our duty as parents, teachers, doctors, politicians to find a way to help them, they are our future they are whats important in life. Simply blaming guns is not the answer the problem is more complex than that, I hope you all take the time to research mental health, school safety, and what we as a society can do to better our kids lives.

I ask you to please oppose all legislation that restricts the liberty of law-abiding gun owners. Instead, work to enforce the gun laws already on the books.

Sincerely,

Jason D Smith