

January 28, 2013

From: Jay van Achterberg, Broad Brook, CT

To: The Bipartisan Task Force on Gun Violence Prevention and Children's Safety

Dear Senators and Representatives of the task force,

As the task force considers what recommendations it will bring before our state legislature concerning modifications to the laws of our state, I would like to urge the following proposals for your consideration:

- (a) Oppose further laws that would criminalize the ownership of certain types of firearms and firearm magazines; and
- (b) Reinstate previous Connecticut law which allowed citizens with a State Permit to Carry Pistols and Revolvers to carry firearms in schools.

#### RATIONALE

Although I spent most of my life away from any personal involvement with firearms, I have known a number of CT residents during my decades living here who own them. I've found firearm owners to be responsible, self-controlled individuals who deeply love their families and diligently serve their friends and communities. They recognize there are evil people in society, and are willing to stand up to them should need arise. I have not observed any of them to be "looking for trouble," but the gun-owning community in general is willing to fight, if need be, to defend our women, children, men and state.

It is these responsible, self-controlled, law-abiding gun owners that will be most affected by any laws that seek to criminalize ownership of certain firearms or magazines. The state would do itself a disservice by lowering the preparedness of these individuals who are willing to defend the state and its citizens. In fact, some of them, if subjected to new laws that criminalize them for remaining in Connecticut with their existing firearms, will be forced to move out of state rather than remain and knowingly break such laws. Is it in our best interest to drive away the people who are most likely to be on-site when an attack begins and most prepared to rise against evil in time of need?

Clearly one of the places where we need people who are ready to stand up and defend our people is in schools. Given that our state has already run background checks and issued permits to hundreds of thousands of CT residents who today can carry firearms, and given the relative peacefulness of these residents, many of whom already regularly carry their firearms concealed in public, it seems wise to legalize and encourage the carrying of firearms by these permit holders in our schools. This makes far more sense than hiring security officers for two obvious reasons: (1) it costs our schools nothing, and (2) it puts criminals off guard by making it impossible for them to know who at the school will be able to stand and defend the children and staff against a violent attack.

Thank you for considering my point of view.

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