

Task Force Committee,

The eyes for the country unfortunately, because of the Newtown tragedy are upon you. Washington, due to past performance is unable to help. We get more bang for the buck at the state and local level.

I am presently working part time at a private school in Newington, am a teacher, parent and grandparent, have had experience handling semiautomatic assault weapons in the Viet Nam war, have had uncles and a father in law that fought in WWII and received the purple heart.

I grew up in an America where a gun culture that exists now was never experienced when I grew up with these men mentioned above, nor do I have any wish to support a gun culture that now exists, and is backed up by organizations like the NRA, Connecticut Citizens for Defense, the Connecticut Minutemen or our gun stores that actively support these organizations. A simple google of these organizations will bare this out.

When citizens testify it is important to be aware of how much they are invested in this gun culture. I do believe there are rights, given in the 2nd Amendment with the right to bare arms. However, when we are talking about the shootings in our cities, and now recently the tragedy at Newtown these rights obviously have far outgrown the need to go hunting or protect yourself at home.

That is why I support a gun laws like those passed in New York state, laws supported by the Connecticut Organization Against Gun Violence, AND, a regional approach to this subject to better stop the infiltration of guns into our cities.

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