

1/27/2013

To the members of the task force on gun violence prevention and child safety.

As a father of two young children I write this with a heavy heart, for the horrible event in Newtown and the resultant demonizing and trampling of the rights of many good citizens of this state that own firearms. I'm not in favor of any law further restricting legal gun owners. I'm in favor of laws that would lower gun crime. That is the mission of this panel, please take it seriously and don't let your prejudice stop you from doing what will stem gun violence. All of the anti-gun wish list so far submitted by the legislature will have NO effect on gun crime. In fact this state has an abysmal record with prosecuting gun crimes, I was shocked upon finding this which I'm sure you already know.

The following information is found in OLR report number 2007-R-0442, entitled Case Statistics for Firearm Violations for the years 2001-2007.

CARRYING PISTOL WITHOUT A PERMIT (CGS § 29-35(a))

58% of the people arrested were not prosecuted.

ILLEGAL POSSESSION OF ASSAULT WEAPON (CGS § 53-202c)

47% of the people arrested were not prosecuted.

USE FIREARM TO COMMIT A CLASS A, B, OR C FELONY (CGS § 53-202k)

72% of the people arrested were not prosecuted.

STEALING A FIREARM (CGS § 53a-212)

73% of the people arrested were not prosecuted.

POSSESS FIREARM OR DEADLY WEAPON ON SCHOOL GROUND (CGS § 53a-217b)

83% of the people arrested were not prosecuted.

CRIMINAL POSSESSION OF PISTOL OR REVOLVER (CGS § 53a-217c)

55% of the people arrested were not prosecuted.

In total 26,725 people were arrested for firearm violations between 2001 and 2007 – 71% were not prosecuted.

These statistics show a problem much deeper and more troubling, that the mantra of we don't enforce the gun laws we have rings true. If this "Task Force" is serious about gun crime reduction why don't you suggest to the governor that perhaps actually prosecuting gun crimes may be a great place to start. Second if I could offer a suggestion, I heard a senator from Florida talking of their 10/20/life law, ten years committing a crime in possession of a gun, twenty years if you draw the gun during a crime, life if you fire the weapon during commission of a crime. This makes sense to me and would likely deter some gun crime, however the stats above don't lead me to believe the state would do this and will continue to target law abiding citizens just to disarm them. Thus nothing will change, and the next horrible event where a madman does something horrible you and your ilk will then call for another round of citizen disarmament.

In closing I would ask this task force to remember that there are a lot of good CT citizens that do not deserve the demonization we are receiving from our own government. I'm not a criminal, don't treat me as one. Again I urge you to look past your prejudice and ask yourselves will your recommendations stop a mentally disturbed person doing something like Sandy Hook. If the answer is no as with the ridiculous bills already submitted that won't stop a thing. Do not victimize the good law abiding gun owners of this state with more useless laws.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Joe Cyr

Coventry, CT