

To the Bipartisan Task force,

In the aftermath of the terrible tragedy in Newtown, what I was hoping would be an honest discussion of ideas to help protect our children and citizens from unstable lunatics, seems to be turning into a trampling of the Second Amendment Rights of law abiding gun owners. The news media is spreading lies and misinformation to the uninformed public, and it is obvious that these news people know very little about firearms. Sadly it seems many in our Legislature are trying to capitalize on this horrific event to further an agenda they have been pushing for years.

These same old Bills like Microstamping, Registration, Tax schemes, banning online purchases, and others, will only hurt the honest gun owner. Many sound illegal, or unconstitutional like outright confiscation of assault rifles, semi auto pistols, or high capacity magazines. These laws will be turning citizens who are statistically the most law abiding, into criminals overnight. Rep. Dargons bill to publish the addresses of gun owners will give criminals a map, and get more stolen guns on the streets, endangering the public and law enforcement. These bills will also cost the state jobs, from companies like Stag Arms, Mec-gar, Mossberg and others. We did nothing as Winchester, Marlin, Ruger, and others took their skilled manufacturing jobs out of state.

Much has been made of the public having no use for "these evil assault weapons". Sadly, one of these madmen could have caused as much carnage with a typical 12 gauge hunting shotgun. These assault rifles are not going off by themselves, as you need a person to pull the trigger for each shot. They are not fully automatic. During the LA. riots, Korean store owners protected themselves and their businesses with these weapons when the Police could not. During hurricane Katrina, when the New Orleans Police abandoned the city, left over citizens used high capacity weapons to protect themselves from roving gangs and looters. Ranchers along the Mexican boarder need protection from the drug cartels. {and how many of these weapons did Eric Holder and the ATF let walk into Mexico and will cause problems for years}?

Who would have thought that terrorists could bring down airliners with box cutters? America is a safer country with these rifles in the publics hands. The AR15 is the modern day musket. I am sure our enemies would love to see the public disarmed. During World War 2 the reason the continental United States wasn't attacked was because the Japanese said, "there will be a rifle behind every blade of grass". They especially said DO NOT GO Through Texas!

We need to get the focus back on protecting our children and citizens. We can not do some knee-jerk reaction like Gov. Cuomo did in New York. We need time to find answers as to why these shootings seem to take place in affluent communities, by mostly young white males. These mass shootings are not taking place in inner city schools where guns and violence are more prevalent. Is it because God has been taken out of the schools?, Violent video games and movies? Bad parenting where kids today seem to be spoiled and get everything they want? Our entitlement and status symbol culture? Glorifying bad behavior?

In 1990 Congress passed the Gun Free School Zone Act. Except for Kent State in 1970, I couldn't find any other mass shootings before 1997. Since then these "evil cowards" know the kids are unprotected lambs for slaughter. We can install more security cameras, re enforce enterences, install lockable steel doors and doorframes in all classrooms, but the bottom line is we need armed people in our schools. This is the "common sense" solution that has been ridiculed in the media. Retired Police, returning Military, and trained concealed carry citizens will be a huge preventative measure we can take. They will need some special training with local Police, like how to react with first responders and arriving Law Enforcement to the emergency. Our Politicians, Hollywood Stars, and our money in banks are protected with armed guards. Why not our most precious resource...our children?

The Second Amendment is not about hunting. It is our God given Right to self protection and to protect us from tyranny. The Second Amendment is the Amendment that protects all the others. Lets enforce the gun laws we already have. Make all gun crimes federal. Go after illegal gun traffickers. With more guns in society than ever before, gun crime is at a 35 year low. The Federal Assault Weapons Ban had statistically no effect. Do not treat law abiding gun owners like criminals.

Thank you,

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